

THE ATHLETIC

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No. 2633.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1878.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

ROYAL LITERARY FUND.—The EIGHTY-NINTH ANNUAL DINNER of the Corporation will take place at Willis's Rooms, on WEDNESDAY, May 22, the Right Hon. W. E. FORSTER, M.P., in the Chair. The Stewards will be announced in future Advertisements. No. 10, John-street, Adelphi, W.C. OCTAVIAN ELLIOTT, Sec.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, Albemarle-street, W.

The next ACTONIAN PRIZE will be awarded in the Year 1879 to any Essay illustrative of the Wisdom and Beneficence of the Almighty; the subject being "The Structure and Functions of the Retina in all Classes of Animals, viewed in Relation with the Theory of Evolution." The Prize is One Hundred Guinea, and will be awarded or withheld as the Managers in their judgment shall think proper. Competitors for the Prize are requested to send their Essays (with or without their Names being affixed) to the Royal Institution, addressed to the Secretary, on or before the 1st of October, 1878. The adjudication will be made by the Managers in 1879. WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE, Sec. R.I.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The THIRTY MEETING of the Session will be held at 22, Bedford-street, Piccadilly, W., on WEDNESDAY NEXT, April 17th, at 8 P.M. Antiquities will be exhibited, and the following Papers read:—

1. On "Good Friday Buns." By H. SYER CUMING, F.S.A. (Scott.)
2. On "Recently Discovered Roman Remains at Canterbury." By Mr. JOHN BRENT, F.S.A.
3. On "The DEPT. OF GRAY AND CLOSE OF OTOBER." By P. P. LOTTUS, F.R.S.L. } Hon. Secs.
4. On "The DEPT. OF GRAY AND CLOSE OF OTOBER." By P. P. LOTTUS, F.R.S.L. } Hon. Secs.

A limited number of Cards of Admission are reserved for Non-Members, and may be had gratuitously on application to Mr. LOTTUS, Back, 37, Bedford-place, Russell-square, W.C.

ARTISTS' GENERAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION, for the Relief of Distressed Artists, their Widows and Orphans.

The ANNUAL DINNER will take place in Willis's Rooms, on SATURDAY, May 11th, at Six o'clock. FREDERICK LEIGHTON, Esq., R.A., in the Chair. Donations will be received and thankfully acknowledged by—JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS, R.A., Honorary Secretary. PHILIP CHARLES HARDWICK, Treasurer. F. LAMBE PRICE, Secretary, 24, Old Bond-street, W. Dinner Tickets, including Wines, One Guinea.

ARTS ASSOCIATION, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

The FIRST EXHIBITION of MODERN WORKS of ART will be opened in the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, about the MIDDLE of the MONTH, and CLOSE the END of OCTOBER. Particulars from the Honorary Secretaries, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Mr. W. A. SMITH, 14, Charles-street, Middlessex Hospital, forwarding Agent for London. JOSEPH CRAWFALL, } Hon. Secs.- JOSEPH CRAWFALL, } Hon. Secs.
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INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION will open on MONDAY NEXT, April 15th. H. F. PHILLIPS, Sec.

SOCIETY OF LADY ARTISTS.—EXHIBITION now OPEN. Gallery, 48, Great Marlborough-street. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d. (during the Season only) for the Study of the Living Costume Model. Instructor—W. H. FISK, Visitor. D. D. LESLIE, R.A. (A New Model on Tuesday, April 16th). Prospectus at the Gallery.

CRYSTAL PALACE PICTURE GALLERY.—PRIZE MEDALS will be given for the best Pictures exhibited this season. The GALLERY will RE-OPEN at EASTER. For particulars apply to Mr. C. W. WARS.

THE ROYAL FAMILY at WINDSOR.—Mr. MACLEAN's large Picture of the Royal Family at Windsor, now on view in the Old Bond-street Galleries, Piccadilly. Admission, 1s.

PITCHINGS.—EXHIBITION of SELECTIONS from the WORKS of Seymour Haden, Whistler, Rajon, Meryon &c.—Mr. C. W. DOWDSEWELL'S GALLERY, 36, Chancery-lane. Admission free.

PITCHING by F. SEYMOUR HADEN, Esq., F.R.C.S.—Messrs. HOGARTH have the honour to announce for publication a New Series of Twelve Etchings from Nature, by Mr. SEYMOUR HADEN. On View at their Gallery, Mount-street, Gower-square, London, W.

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EXAMINATIONS in MUSIC, 1878.—The TRINITY COLLEGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS in ELEMENTARY MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE will be held simultaneously at the various Centres throughout the United Kingdom and the Colonies on FRIDAY, June 14. Adjudicators of Prizes—Sir Julius Benedict and Sir John Goss, Mus. D. The Examinations are open to all comers of both Sexes, and Prizes, Honours, and Certificates awarded according to merit. Number of Candidates at previous Examination, 1,118. The following Higher Examinations will commence on THURSDAY, July 4:—

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAS of ASSOCIATE and LICENTIATE in MUSIC.—HIGHER MUSICAL CERTIFICATES to WOMEN.—CERTIFICATES for TECHNICAL SKILL in MUSIC.

Regulations for either of the above-named Examinations may be had of the SECRETARY, Trinity College, London, W.

NATIONAL ACADEMY for the HIGHER DEVELOPMENT of PIANOFORTE PLAYING, 8, Weymouth-street, Portland-place, W.

President—Mr. FRANKLIN TAYLOR. Director—Mr. OSCAR BERINGER.

The STUDENTS' CONCERT (invitation) will take place at the Lusham Hall, on May 4th, at Three o'clock. NEXT TERM commences on APRIL 14th. Fee, Six Guineas. Entrance Days, April 17th and 18th, from 10 till 3.—For Prospectuses and all particulars apply to the DIRECTOR.

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TO LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.—JOHN FORBES-ROBERTSON, Author of "The Great Painters of Christendom," is prepared to make arrangements for the Re-delivery of the Lecture, which he read before the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts, on the HISTORICAL RELATION of SECULAR to SACRED ART.—25, Charlotte-street, Bedford-square, W.C.

MR. WILLMOTT DIXON, LL.B. of Trinity College, Cambridge, and of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, Author of "The Jacobite Episode in Scottish History," &c., is now making arrangements for delivering his LECTURES and RECITALS, Historical and Dramatic, during the Autumn Session of 1878.—All communications to be addressed to Mr. WILLMOTT DIXON, 135, Strand, London, W.C.

MR. G. W. FOOTE will give the THIRD of his READINGS from the BEST ENGLISH WRITERS in the Langham Hall, Great Portland-street, W., on TUESDAY, April 16th, at 8 P.M. Writers drawn from—Shakespeare, Dryden, Hood, Browning, Rossetti, and George Meredith. Musical Interludes (Piano and Violin) from Mendelssohn, Weber, Chopin, and Raff. Admission, 1s.; Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d. Mr. Foote is a skilled elocutionist, combining energy with right feeling; he knows what is good, and does justice to his authors, his audience, and himself.—Academy.

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GUY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.—The SUMMER SESSION will commence on WEDNESDAY, 1st May. The Hospital contains 600 beds, and includes special departments for diseases of the Eye, Ear, Skin, &c. Classes are held in the Hospital for Students preparing for the Examinations of the University of London, and other Examining Boards. For Prospectus and further information with reference to Classes, Scholarships, &c., apply to the DEAN, Guy's Hospital, S.E.

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SOCIETY for the DEVELOPMENT of the SCIENCE of EDUCATION. United Westminster Schools, Alexander-street, Victoria-street, S.W.—A FREE will be delivered on WEDNESDAY, April 17, at 7.30, by W. H. HERFORD, Esq., R.A. Lond., "On Faults in the usual Means and Methods of Teaching History to Children." Teachers and other interested in Education are invited. Hon. Sec., Mr. C. H. LAKE, Osterham Valley.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—LECTURES to LADIES, at the VESTRY HALL, KENSINGTON, and the EAST-TERM WILL BEGIN on MONDAY, April 29th, and end on July 2th.

Lectures and Classes in Holy Scriptures and Church History—Logic and Moral Philosophy—Ancient and Modern History—Latin, Greek, and Mathematics—English, French, and German Language and Literature—Astronomy—Botany—Physics—Geology, and Physical Geography and Harmony. For all information apply to Mrs. G. A. SPOTTISWOODE, 29, Ashley-place, S.W.; W. JACK, Esq., 19, Lansdown-road, W.; or Miss NEWSON, care of Hallkeeper, Vestry Hall, Kensington, W.

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Forms of Entry may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. ANOON ROBERTSON, 6, Lorton-terrace, Lechlade-road, London, W., to whom they must be returned, filled up, by April 20th.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 1878.

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LITERATURE

A Legacy: being the Life and Remains of John Martin, Schoolmaster and Poet. Written and Edited by the Author of 'John Halifax, Gentleman.' 2 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

THE value of the legacy constituted by the life and remains of John Martin can scarcely be estimated without knowing exactly to whom the bequest is made. So far as the public is concerned every achievement in literature, art, and science descends to it as heir. Enriched, then, by all that the ages have produced, it is not likely to be overwhelmed with the splendour of the new acquisition. Time, according to Ulysses, is like

A fashionable host

That slightly shakes his parting guest by the hand,
And, with his arms outstretch'd as he would fly,
Grasps in the corner: welcome ever smiles
And farewell goes out sighing.

It is also like a fashionable friend and wears the mourning-ring for a loss until another succeeds it. To Mrs. Craik, on the contrary, the legacy is indeed a princely bequest. The entire book is a proof of her influence. She has found a soil almost virgin, and has sown in it such seed as she selected, the result which she gives to the world being a distinct outcome of herself. It is probable that Mrs. Craik is scarcely sensible of the extent of the influence she has exerted over a man she has only twice seen. That her share in his mental growth is not over estimated by her is shown continuously. It happens, however, that the kind of influence she chose, very wisely, to exercise is that precisely which in the case of a man like the subject of her memoir would be most potent. When others gave encouragement she interposed a check. Instead of advising the publication of juvenile verses, the ordinary mistake of friends, she held up before an aspiring youth the influence of highest models. Without unduly depressing him she showed him how far short of the requisite standpoint came the work he had done. With most men not eaten up with vanity, "le mieux est l'ennemi du bien." The consequence of her interference was that her pupil went to the grave without having known the pleasures or the pains of authorship. Uncertain now whether she has acted for the best, Mrs. Craik has given to the world a selection from those

writings which failed, according to her previous estimate, to reach the required standpoint. With them she supplies long extracts from a diary which seems to have stood to Martin in place of more substantive work and a running commentary of criticism and memoir.

A tablet which will shortly be erected in St. Peter's Church, London Docks, will bear the following inscription:—"John Martin, schoolmaster, poet, and Christian; born at Wapping, Nov. 26, 1846; ended there a most suffering, patient, and heroic life, and entered into eternal rest Oct. 13, 1876, aged 29 years." In this epitaph, with the pious assumption of certain sentences, and the rather redundant information contained in the last phrase, as though a man born in 1846, and dead in 1876, could well be more than one age, all obtainable information concerning John Martin is conveyed. His life had a special sadness, the source of which Mrs. Craik is bound by promise not to divulge. It happens, accordingly, that what would make it worthy of attention is precisely what cannot be known. The life then, as we see it, excites more attention from the standpoint of Christian example than from that of literary distinction, and the book is a little too much of the character of an amplified tract.

There is an aspect of Martin in which he stands alone in literature. Those men who under fostering care have developed into poetings have, for the most part, been of birth different from him. Bloomfield, though a journeyman shoemaker in London, was born in a village, and his mother was a school-mistress. Clare, too, lived among rural sights and sounds. John Martin was born in East-end, London, and belonged to the very lowest ranks of the people. Every form of profanity and dissoluteness surrounded his early career. These dropped off from him, however, without hurting him, and he lived a life of hard, honest work, elevated by poetical aspiration. This shows, of course, a mind of no ordinary calibre. It happens that the amount of culture he obtained from a course of omnivorous reading was not very valuable so far as regards its influence on others. He had no very clear perceptions and was wholly destitute of the poetical powers he was anxious to claim. To the end then he remained a sort of model, to be shown as a result of missionary enterprise or like influence, rather than one whose thoughts had interest for the world. On the rare occasions when he felt inclined to deal with the class from which he sprang, he has either been cut short by his editor or has shrunk back for fear of wounding susceptibilities. It is, however, just when he speaks about the seething life of the East-end and the units of which it is composed he is worth attention. The world cannot greatly benefit, even in the way of warning, by seeing how the poor fellow, in his attempts at poetry, strives to make "arrives" rhyme to "Dives." Mrs. Craik is aware of her pupil's shortcomings in regard to verse, and it is indeed to her care it is due that the few years of his life were not chilled by the breath of the adverse criticism the publication of his crude verses must have provoked.

From the class out of which he sprang young Martin seems to have entirely dissociated himself. He owns to having taken a wild delight in what he calls the "demolition

of the Hyde Park railings in 1866," and late in the same year he "walked to Knightsbridge and back in order to see 'Marshall Potter's' army of trades unionists." He declares, however, frankly, that he was not interested in the upshot of these agitations. It is probable that physical weakness was to a great extent responsible for this kind of indifference. Once or twice he deals with the problems that affect the Proletarian. He shows some inclination towards Malthusianism, chronicling the instances he has known of brutal treatment of wives by their husbands, and protesting against the assumptions that marriage is always a blessing or that single life must necessarily be miserable. No man, he considers, "has any right to enter the married state unless he is assured of an income for, at any rate, two or three years fairly certain." His views on this subject again seem coloured by ill health. He is quite a young man, yet he owns, with regard to women, that "much of the glamour of youth and early manhood has passed away," and he notes that "under fine looks the mind's eye perceives the parchment skin of age—sweet words suggest the idea of bitterness by-and-by." This frame of mind is certainly not natural at eight-and-twenty.

A portion of Martin's life was passed as master of the boys' school, Great Easton, near Dunmow. Life in the country appears soon to have wearied him. Absence from companionship and from books was more depressing than the ghastly surroundings of his early life, and it was to his old haunts that, when stricken with mortal illness, he returned to die. His views as expressed in his diary are ambitious and crude. Here is a strange instance of straining after originality:—

"The moon now (just 9 P.M.) looks extremely beautiful. Light fleecy clouds across the green sky. Everything a hundred feet above the earth mysteriously, enchantingly solemn. All seems to speak to one's spirit, apprising us of a holier and happier state. Nothing in the moonlight looks mean—Reason gilds all, makes all lovely. I take the sun as a type or symbol of love, the moon as one of reason. The sun is the heart of the world; the moon is the mind of the world. If we pursue the analogy we shall see that it has a deep foundation. From the heart issue streams of blood to nourish the body; from the sun streams of light to nourish and create all organic life. The sun turns all to gold—so does love; the sun is warm—as love. Reason is the reflection of love. The moon's light is reflected from the sun. He who loves most will know most. Love makes us wise. The rays of the moon are cold, giving light but no warmth—so do the rays of reason. Reason looks out of Egyptian darkness, and has its vision dimmed every morning by clouds, just as the moon's light is dimmed at times; but Love looks out of the clear heavens ever bright, ever vivifying. Yet reason, though its light is not so dazzling, beholds more, as we can discern things by the light of the moon without making our eyes ache. Love dispenses with time and space—the sun's rays travel millions of miles. Reason arrives at its object soberly; the moon is not so very far from the earth. I should like to trace the analogy another time; it seems to me to be very startling."

A curious comment upon this is afforded by the next paragraph, which runs thus: "I hear them yawning upstairs, so shall finish for to-night." A little further on he says, with great apparent want of sincerity,—

"Looking back there seems nothing worth while recording. The dead, monotonous days stare us in the face with lack-lustre eyes. We

have had our daily food; let us be thankful; but we are not hypocrites to ourselves always, so we are thankless. Why? Because we know that we don't deserve to live. We see no good results. Ah! we see too many bad ones—springing from our eating and drinking—so that the recollection of dinners and suppers gives us pain."

Now and then he appears to have dreamed that he was endowed with poetic gifts. In one place he says: "I paint for eternity," said a painter of old. In the same spirit I may say that I write, if not for eternity, yet to posterity. I will be a unit in the numbers of mankind." Again, in a letter to Mrs. Craik he speaks of Mr. Tennyson, Mr. Browning, Mr. Swinburne, Mr. Morris, as still existing, but declares there is "A lull just now, announcing the advent of a poet that shall wear no laurel, but shall with loftiness and purity of thought speak to this materialistic age."

The drama 'Placidio,' which follows the diary and memoir, is but poor work, and the poems have even less merit. "Poetry which needs any apology," says Mrs. Craik, "had, as a rule, better not be printed. The world receives its literary wares, like all others, simply as wares—merchandise—according to their value, without taking into account any incidental circumstances of their production." The wares of John Martin are like the looks of Phebe, "not for all markets." The comments and the honestly avowed friendliness of Mrs. Craik may secure for Martin a certain measure of attention. There is nothing, however, that the world is compelled to hear. Martin was so far right in his estimate of himself as a coming poet, that it is only as a protester against what he describes as Materialism he will get a hearing.

Sketches of Russian Life and Customs, made during a Visit in 1876-7. By Selwyn Eyre. (Remington & Co.)

Most of the books about Russia published just now are more or less anti-Russian. Here by way of a change is a chatty, pleasant little volume, breathing a friendly spirit towards the "Muscovite" life and customs it portrays. Apparently a lady, and of distinctly High Church leanings, "Selwyn Eyre" found much to admire in Russia a year ago, and evidently made many pleasant friendships which tended still more to tinge Russian scenes with a rosy colour. Commencing with a description of Warsaw, "the city of the Jews," Selwyn Eyre proceeds to sketch the line to Moscow, one which is not often travelled over by English tourists. But the journey, though tedious, must be preferable to that *via* Petersburg, if the first-class carriages are generally as little used as they were when Selwyn Eyre travelled in them, running in a reverse direction over the track along which Napoleon's frost-smitten troops painfully struggled homewards after the burning of Moscow.

Of Moscow itself the author of course speaks in terms of enthusiasm. There was so much going on, so many sights to be seen. Here go by a band of ladies and gentlemen collecting money for their Slavonian brethren (more popular just then than at present), and gaining much. A lady, it seems, who sallied forth one morning, her lackey following as her guardian, in a very short time, and without exhausting more than three streets, collected upwards of 30*l*. There a new house is being

blessed, a detachment of priests bringing the picture of the Iberian Madonna to ensure happiness and prosperity to the building, and a service being performed "entirely in Slavonic—a sort of dialect much in association, I am told, with Russian, as Scotch is with English" (an interesting piece of information for philologists). Elsewhere a train is starting with volunteers for Serbia, the platform blocked by the crowds of friends and relatives who have come to bid them farewell, and to shower bouquets on the departing heroes. The flowers fall fast and thickly into the crowded carriages, they lodge in the window-frames, they lie scattered on the roofs. "Such enthusiasm! Where has it been surpassed? It is the voice of the people now that speaks—it was in past days that of the noblesse." Another day the author attends a five-hour service at the Devichi Nunnery, and afterwards admires the tea-drinking which follows the rite outside the convent walls. And again, a train of volunteers is seen starting for Serbia, crowds escorting the volunteers to their seats, priests chanting solemnly for the safety of the travellers, praying "that God might ever give the Russians victory, defend them ever from their enemies, and give them days of peace"; and the multitude taking up the response, as if with one accord, "their voices reverberating wildly through the air." All this, perhaps, must be taken with a grain of salt. Allowance must be made for the enthusiasm of a visitor who finds that General Tcherniaieff is "a good-looking man decidedly." Of the English congregation, too, our author speaks in terms which certainly a few years ago could not justly have been applied to it. But perhaps things have altered. "Nowhere in foreign lands," we are told, "can a more earnest and hearty congregation be found than in the one English church of which Moscow boasts." We are glad to hear of such an improvement. There was a time when it would have been difficult to find a congregation more divided against itself, more torn by feuds and harassed by heart-burnings, its Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and Evangelical sections bitterly resenting the High Church tone of the services. But peace may have settled down on the troubled waters before now.

Of the winter a bright and cheering account is given. One of its attendant blessings, according to the author, is the capacity for sleep it bestows. "The presence of snow alone induces sleep," it seems. How many weary brains would gladly inhabit Arctic realms if such be the case! The author is delighted with wandering on Christmas Eve through churches swarming with peasants, who are crossing themselves perpetually, prostrating themselves on the ground every moment, threading their way through the crowd from one miraculous picture to another, and so systematically getting through their devotions. "I am not one," says the author, "who smiles grimly or ironically, as many do, on witnessing all these prostrations." They are only a feature of Eastern reverence. It would be an idle task to tell the worshippers that a little less extravagance in their gestures would be an improvement. And so when our author goes out to the cemeteries, and, having listened to the "howlings" over the graves of departed friends, sees the apparently broken-hearted survivors gathering around their samovars, contented

and even boisterously happy, we do not hear an outcry. On the contrary, the manners of the simple barbarians are described with no small kindness. On the 24th of last April our author went to the Kremlin in order to listen to the reading of the Imperial declaration of war against Turkey, when "not a knee remained unbent, and the Royal proclamation found expression in words, amidst breathless silence on the part of those who listened, at the lips of the officiating priest"; and later on, in August, witnessed the ceremony of blessing the line of ambulances presented by the Grand Duchess Constantine. Here is the account we have given us of the Sisters who attended it:—

"Right and left stood the Sisters of Charity about to accompany the ambulances in the capacity of nurses, wearing black dresses, white bibs and aprons, with the well-known red cross displaying itself conspicuously upon the sleeve of the right arm. The faces of nearly all were interesting looking, the hair being drawn back carefully beneath the pure white square handkerchief fastened beneath the chin of each; and the whole picture was curiously and pleasantly suggestive of sweet womanly aid being ready at hand the instant it was required."

Each sister, it seems, receives, in addition to her food, an allowance of about 4*l*. a month. The book ends with a description of the departure of the Imperial Guard from Moscow, where a feast was provided for them, at the end of which

"the officers marched out, the troops, crouched in such numbers on the platforms, rose promptly to their feet, grasping their knapsacks; and then the women's arms were bound fast around the necks of those stepping, now fast, according to orders, into the carriages immediately facing them. The notes of the Russian hymn rose and fell from time to time, many of the voices being more than half choked. In flocked all the sobbing women left behind, with heads wrapped up in the thick woollen Russian shawl or extemporized *bashlik*, 'crossing' their departing friends three times in earnest and true orthodox fashion, praying Heaven to bless them."

And then the author also quits Russian soil, bidding adieu to Russian pictures with many regrets, and ending with the words,—*"Preicheit* then, picture like and beautiful Moscow, or shall it only be *Dussvedinia*?" Of which Russian expressions we may say "Priscian a little scratched; but 'twill serve."

Transactions and Proceedings of the Conference of Librarians held in London, October, 1877. Edited by the Secretaries of the Conference. (Whittingham.)

The Bibles in the Caxton Exhibition, 1877; or, a Bibliographical Description of nearly One Thousand Representative Bibles in Various Languages, Chronologically Arranged from the First Bible printed by Gutenberg in 1450-1456 to the Last Bible printed at the Oxford University Press, the 30th June, 1877. With an Introduction on the History of Printing. By Henry Stevens, G.M.B. F.S.A. (H. Stevens.)

THE transactions and discussions of the Conference of Librarians which met in London last year are faithfully recorded in the handsome volume before us, produced under the skilful editorship of Messrs. Nicholson and Tedder, and printed in the best style of the Chiswick Press.

It was a happy thought of Mr. Nicholson

to call such a Conference together, the time being fully ripe for it, on account of the spread of Free Libraries throughout the country, due to the operation of Mr. Ewart's Act, and the success which attended a similar Conference of American Librarians at Philadelphia in the Exhibition year. At that Conference only one English librarian was present. There ought to have been many, and many would have gone but for considerations of cost. At the London Conference there were sixteen American librarians, whose expenses, we believe, were defrayed by the institutions to which they belonged, and who, while they contributed largely to the discussions that took place, have left it upon record that they learned a vast deal appertaining to their profession from their visit to England. Mr. Nicholson having led the way, and shown the advisability of a London Conference, was ably supported by an organizing committee, which met at the London Library in April, and issued circulars to all the librarians throughout the kingdom inviting their co-operation. The result was that as many as 216 gentlemen enrolled themselves as members, nearly all of whom attended at the meetings in October, over which Mr. Winter Jones presided.

All the papers read at the Conference were more or less of an interesting character, but the one which at the time appeared to attract the most attention, apart from that of the Museum Catalogue, was one by Mr. C. H. Robarts, Fellow and late Librarian of All Souls' College, Oxford, a gentleman who has done much to improve the library of his College. It dealt with the subject of 'University Libraries as National Institutions.' All Souls' has now an income of 24,000*l.*, or its revenue will speedily reach that sum, "more than equal to the united revenues of Balliol, University, and Trinity." Out of this wealth Mr. Robarts proposes to supplement the income of Bodley's Librarian, besides endowing the assistant librarianships in such a manner as to make them worthy the acceptance of persons thoroughly qualified and devoted to their work. We heartily wish him success in his endeavour. The Bodleian at Oxford is, as every one knows, next after the British Museum, the finest library in the United Kingdom, and it will be the best use that could be made of its superfluous funds to place All Souls' in a position to benefit the country at large by endowing the Bodleian Library. Besides, it would seem as if in these days, when lecturing is somewhat of an anachronism, the future belonged to the University that has the biggest collection of books. Whether, however, the University Commissioners will have the courage to approve of so revolutionary a scheme may be questioned; and, indeed, when one considers the composition of the commission and the desperate resistance which the "bene nati, bene vestiti," are likely to make to a proposal to increase at their expense the facilities for acquiring learning at Oxford, one can have little hope that Mr. Robarts will see his project realized for many years to come. Still, the idea has been started and, what is more, has found support.

A paper by Mr. Cornelius Walford, 'On Special Collections of Books,' is deserving of great attention. The same may be said of the paper contributed by Mr. Henry Stevens, 'On Photobibliography, or a Central Bibliographical Clearing House.' Mr. Stevens's

ideas on the advantage of photobibliography as applied to the title-pages of rare books are admirably illustrated in the present work: but there is no need now to dwell on them as they are already familiar to readers of the *Athenæum*. In a paper 'On the Admission of Fiction in Free Public Libraries' Mr. Cowell advocates its exclusion; but, at the Conference, so high an authority as the Librarian of the Bodleian asked two questions:—"1. Are we not losing the real use of fiction in forgetting its philosophy—to supply imagination to those who have it not? 2. Are we not travelling out of our sphere and acting as *censores morum*, when we have not the power? The librarian has no power to exclude this or that according to his own views." Similarly Mr. Poole, one of the American delegates, said, what is the meaning of trash? There was the Thomason Collection in the British Museum, of books and pamphlets, principally the latter, printed between 1640 and 1660:—

"All these went into Mr. Thomason's collection, an immense amount of 'trash' which he transported about the country to keep it out of the way of the contending armies of the king and of the Parliament. This collection has now found a resting-place in the British Museum, where nothing is regarded as 'trash.' It was saved from the baker's oven by George the Third, who bought it for 300*l.* There are single books and pamphlets in it which would bring that sum to-day in America. Whenever the British Museum gets tired of that trash, and will offer it at public sale, there will be a book auction in London which will rival in interest that of the Perkins sale."

He might have said *surpass* it, and realize a larger amount of money. There is a touch of unreality in some of the lamentations raised about the naughty readers at free libraries who will read novels. Mr. Mudie could, we suspect, tell much the same tale of his subscribers, and every one knows what a large proportion of the capital annually invested in paper and print is allotted to novels. Free libraries cannot prosper if they are artificially serious; nor is a man necessarily benefited by turning over so many pages of a dull history. If the readers do not find the books they want they will stay away; it is possible to prevent them reading Dickens, but it is quite impossible to make them read Lord Stanhope. Besides the censors of fiction have not always profited so much by their own unobjectionable studies that their example will prove necessarily inspiring. There is a tradition that a Head of House objected to the purchase for the Library of his University of Diez's Grammar of the Romance Languages, on the ground that there were novels enough in the Library already.

The discussions, which are now printed in the Appendix to this volume, might have been more conveniently placed at the conclusion of each paper read at the Conference. As it is, the reader is annoyed by having to turn in each instance to the Appendix; or else he continues to read the papers through, and then comes upon the discussions all printed together, and in a smaller type, as if they were of inferior quality to the papers read, whereas they are frequently much more valuable and attractive.

In the Appendix there appear also some interesting notices of the several London libraries visited by the Conference. These notices have been supplied by the librarians of the

several institutions mentioned—Sion College being by Mr. Milman; the Guildhall by Mr. Overall; the London Institution by Mr. Nicholson; Lincoln's Inn by the late Mr. Spilsbury; the Athenæum Club by Mr. Tedder; the Reform Club by Mr. Campkin; South Kensington by Messrs. Sketchley, King, and Soden Smith; the general account and outlines of the history of the British Museum Library by Mr. Bullen; the preliminary visits of the librarians, with an account of the administration of the Library, by Mr. Porter; and the warming and ventilation of the Library by Mr. Roy.

Before leaving the volume we may mention that Mr. Tedder has realized the hopes formed of him, and produced an index worthy of being studied by the new society for the better performance of literary drudgery.

Mr. Stevens's publication on 'The Bibles in the Caxton Exhibition' we are glad to see issued separately from the Caxton Catalogue. It does the highest credit to his knowledge and zeal in the department of Biblical bibliography. The collection of Bibles at the Celebration was such as the world never before saw, and it was at the earnest solicitation of Mr. Bullen, who was the chairman, and of the other members of Sub-Committee No. 1, that Mr. Stevens undertook the arduous task of cataloguing them. This the Sub-Committee pressed upon Mr. Stevens, as being the person best qualified of any one they knew to perform the work, and Mr. Stevens, without the slightest hope of emolument, simply as a labour of love, to the exclusion of many business matters, undertook and produced the catalogue in its present satisfactory form. No one else could have done such a work, and at so short a notice, so well, especially as the "exhibits" naturally came in only in dribbles. We are not surprised, therefore, at the tart manner in which he replies to captious criticisms. There is one thing, at least, for which the entire Bible-loving people of Great Britain and America are indebted to Mr. Stevens, namely, his solution of the question where the first English translation of the entire Scriptures was printed in the year 1535. Mr. Stevens has proved beyond a doubt that this was effected by Emanuel van Meteren, at Antwerp, in the year mentioned. We have already stated our objections to the conclusion arrived at by Mr. Stevens, that Van Meteren was the translator as well as the printer.

The Great Thirst Land: a Ride through Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, and Kalahari Desert. By Parker Gillmore. (Cassell, Petter & Galpin.)

SPORTING trips into the interior of South Africa have not been rare since Gordon Cumming first pointed out the way to the rich hunting grounds beyond the Orange River. Many have published accounts of their experience, and readers desirous of learning something about *sautted* horses and cattle suffering from lung sickness, about the way in which lions, elephants, buffaloes, and smaller game are hunted, enjoy every facility for gratifying their thirst for knowledge. Capt. Gillmore, therefore, is hardly in a position to tell anything that is absolutely new. Still, he has gone through adventures that are strictly personal to himself, he has overcome diffi-

culties which were spared to most of his predecessors, he is one of the last arrivals from the Cape, and, above all, he tells his story so well and pleasantly that even those who are familiar with the class of literature to which his work belongs will be able to derive pleasure and instruction from the account prepared by him. The Boers of Trans Vaal naturally occupy a prominent place in the narrative. They are described as grasping, avaricious, gluttonous, inquisitive, rude in speech, and sometimes rather backward in their education, as is shown by the following anecdote, related of two brothers who had amassed a considerable fortune by taking fruit, poultry, &c., to the diamond fields, and were persons of some position in the village of Klerksdorp, where they resided:—

"One of these brothers was enlarging upon the immense foolishness of the Englanders. They are spending no end of money to find out the source of the Nile, and actually send people into Africa south of the equator to discover its source. 'Well, is not the world round?' Taking an orange to illustrate the matter, and drawing a line round the centre of it, 'Here is the equator. You see where the equator is, don't you? Well, the fools expect to find that the Nile rises on this side of it; but how on earth can men with common sense believe that water will run uphill? Well, these Englanders are the greatest fools; what say you?' And all agreed with him."

On another occasion, when our author incidentally happened to state in the presence of a patriarchal "Dopper" that the earth not only turned on its axis, but also revolved round the sun, he was reprovingly referred to Joshua's command to the sun to stand still. He admitted this, but assured the puzzled old Dopper that the sun had stood still ever since, for if Joshua had set it going again, we should doubtlessly have been told about it in the "Book." These Doppers, by-the-by, are a curious sect, who look upon themselves as the chosen people of God, to whom the heathen has been given as a heritage, and who still wander about in search of the promised land. The party with whom Capt. Gillmore came into contact were "trecking" for Ovampo Land.

The following remarks upon the Boers were called forth by the author's cattle being carried off during the night to the pound at Harri-smith, and only released on payment of two pounds:—

"Truly the Dutchman of South Africa is a strange being; he is neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring, all of which I am more or less acquainted with; but one thing I can say, as far as regards myself, whether he acts the manly part or the stupid part, the insignificant part or the cowardly part, when you settle difficulties with him you are morally certain to owe him money. I do not know how it is, but they are always dinning into your ears that they are so weak, so innocent, that you believe them the most abused class in the world; your suspicions are consequently lulled and your sympathies aroused, and thus you forget, or rather dislike, to show them that you disbelieve their assertions by exercising necessary prudence. Many of my countrymen live among them and make fortunes. Heaven help me if I had a fortune to spend and lived amongst them! I would soon get rid of it. They don't 'do' you like a Yorkshireman, a Glasgow man, a Yankee, or a Blue-nose; their little dodges you can learn with experience, but the Boer does it, and you never learn how he works the oracle. Bah! I'll think no more about them, if it was not that, in my opinion, a man born north of the Tweed should never be done by any one."

The Boers, however, have their good points, too, quite apart from their being physically a fine race of men. They are said to be law-abiding, robberies but seldom take place amongst them, and bloodshed more rarely. In fact, the author admits his indebtedness to them repeatedly, and certainly the worst treatment he received in the course of his travels was inflicted by one of his own countrymen, a deserter from the 36th Regiment, who, assisted by three or four other scoundrels, robbed him of his watch and money, and left him helpless in the wilderness, at a distance of 150 miles from Kimberley.

Our author is peculiarly happy in delineations of animal life and character. Speaking of the tame ostriches, which mix among the flocks and herds of trecking Boers, he says:—

"These strange birds generally stalked at the head of the procession, and appeared to be on most excellent terms with all the domestic animals. Occasionally one would deviate to the right or left of the track to peck a mouthful of grass, but as soon as the drover would leave the road and shout at it, it would immediately fall into its proper place and march forward with the utmost demure gravity, as if to be guilty of an infringement of rules was the last thing it would think of. Ostriches always have an intensely stupid look, but they are not nearly such fools as the uninitiated would take them for; and although the most timid creatures on the earth when in a state of nature, in captivity or when domesticated, they are bold and dangerous, more especially the males. Horse or rider indiscriminately they will attack, walking up to the object of their indignation with a quiet, measured stride, never evincing for a moment the slightest evidence of hostility—in fact, looking such fools that no one would imagine them capable of inimical ideas—when, with a quick movement, done with great strength and velocity, they raise their foot and strike forward, the edges of the toes being so sharp that they will cut your clothes the whole length of the stroke. As they are too valuable to be knocked on the head, perhaps you turn to run from them, but their speed is such that an attempt thus to elude them is useless. The only plan then to be pursued is to throw yourself down, and lie still on your face or back. They cannot kick you in these positions, but they will jump on you and trample all over you. While this operation is going on you may give vent to your feelings and satisfy your self-esteem by bestowing upon them a few reminders that two can play the same game."

We have derived a large amount of amusement from a perusal of Capt. Gillmore's work, and in parting from him would refer to a rather mysteriously worded announcement in the Preface, where he declares himself possessed of a simple method which would enable him, with moderate expenditure and half a dozen attendants, to pass through Africa from south to north. This method, however, he will only disclose to those desirous of assisting him in the undertaking. May such be found!

Lives of Famous Poets. By William Michael Rossetti. A Companion Volume to the Series "Moxon's Popular Poets." (Moxon, Son & Co.)

'LIVES OF FAMOUS POETS' is an alluring title, and when a writer undertakes this delightful subject with competent knowledge and a due appreciation of poetic beauty, his labour cannot fail to claim attention. It would be unreasonable to suppose that the judgment of a critic should satisfy all his readers, and it may be acknowledged that the passion and enthusiasm some poets inspire cannot

be weighed in critical scales. We are content sometimes to love and to enjoy, and have no heart to measure coldly the genius of men who have made life for us more beautiful and noble, who have given us energy to work and strength to suffer. There are sources of joy and inspiration of which no mention can be made here; but the poets who give us "nobler loves and nobler cares" are the wisest human teachers, and the gratitude we owe to them cannot be expressed too warmly. There is, therefore, no reason to find fault with Mr. Rossetti for being an enthusiast, although we may smile when he touches on a few favourite topics upon which he passes from the position of the enthusiast to that of the fanatic.

The book provokes a comparison with Dr. Johnson's work—his greatest literary achievement; and all the more so since six of the poets treated of by Johnson—Milton, Butler, Dryden, Pope, Thomson, and Gray—reappear in the present volume.

"My attempt," says Mr. Rossetti, "amounts to something like an endeavour to produce a supplement, suitable for readers of the present day, to Johnson's 'Lives of the Poets,' if, indeed, I may say so without an appearance of presumption, and without raising a comparison damaging to my own very modest pretensions here. Receding from any question other than that of the relative scale of treatment, I may observe that of Johnson's *Lives* several (as, indeed, most of my readers will know) are written with much more amplitude than mine, while several others are still shorter."

One notable advantage the modern biographer may boast over his illustrious predecessor. Of the twenty-three poets whose "Lives" are here written, twenty, at least, are entitled to Mr. Rossetti's epithet of famous, whereas of Johnson's fifty-two lives a considerable number relate to men who by no stretch of charity can be termed poets, and who, indeed, scarcely merit the title of second-rate verse-makers. On the other hand, the charm of biography consists in detail, and poets who exact from us so much sympathy need, above all other illustrious men, to be known in their daily lives. A first-rate mathematician or engineer may, for anything the public care, be a curse to his family and an annoyance to his neighbours. It is otherwise with the poet, whose work is the outflow of his whole nature, the expression of the heart as well as of the intellect, and the more we venerate a poet the more eagerly do we seek to gain some acquaintance with the life he led among his fellow-men. We expect this life to harmonize with the song sung, and if it fail to do so disappointment is inevitable. Extreme brevity in the relation of facts takes the flavour from biography. What charm is likely to be retained in a life of Sir Walter Scott compressed into fourteen pages, or in a biographical and critical estimate of Cowper condensed into ten? Nine pages contain all the writer has to say of Thomson, and the fascinating if sad tale of Goldsmith's career is related in thirteen. Mr. Rossetti no doubt puts a good deal of matter into a small compass, but his ability is not equal to the task of giving the semblance of flesh and blood to these skeleton biographies. This extreme condensation may suit a dictionary or the purpose for which the "Lives" were originally written; but a volume of such biographies is not a book to attract

the reader. It may be acceptable for use, scarcely for delight. Moreover, Mr. Rossetti's views with regard to poets and the poetic art have a tendency to irritate people who disagree with them. He generally writes strongly, but not always agreeably or impartially, and his dislike of "respectability" and of genius destitute of Bohemian tendencies leads him to convey an unpleasant impression of men who wrote poetry, but were ill-judged enough to be, at the same time, good fathers and good husbands.

This feeling is especially prominent in Mr. Rossetti's Life of Wordsworth, for whom the biographer has a carefully measured appreciation; indeed he thoroughly believes the crotchet of young London, that Wordsworth was a Philistine.—

"A certain crust of Respectability," we are told, "continued to increase upon him unpleasantly, and to clog and warp the clear and pure *contours* of his mind. He was certainly in a high sense the poet of Men in Humble Life, but Respectability intervened and obstructed his becoming either the poet of *Man* in his fullest dimensions, natural in mode of life, unsophisticated by circumstances, uncramped by scruples—or else, like Burns, the genuine outspoken voice of the peasant, with the peasant's full heart, liberal nature, free tongue, and patent faults."

This criticism will not bear examination. There can be little comparison between poets differing so essentially as Burns and Wordsworth. Moreover, although Wordsworth acted justly and with sincerity in the different relations of life, and was probably "cramped by scruples," one is at a loss to see how these weaknesses interfered with the full development of his genius. Great as he was, and in some directions Wordsworth is unsurpassed, he had conspicuous faults as a poet, choosing sometimes, as Scott said, to creep on all fours; but his faults, such as they were, are partly due to a total want of humour, and partly to a morbid appreciation of his own genius. Mr. Rossetti, with all gravity, declares that although Wordsworth was somewhat fiercely dealt with by Shelley in 'Peter Bell the Third,' one cannot exactly pity him, since

"It were a nice point of casuistry to determine whether there is more of honour or of obloquy in being made the subject of a satirical poem, when the satirist is so stupendous a poetic genius as Shelley. . . . True, Wordsworth needed no Shelley to give him an enduring name, nor banter as passport to remembrance; but, as the Italians say, *ben gli sta*—he has attained that particular form of association with the godlike Shelley, and any form of association with him involves some compensation."

Truly here is comfort for any man who may be made a fool of by a great poet! If it be consoling to a Wordsworth to be laughed at by a Shelley, a nonentity like Robinson or Smith may well number among his mercies the ridicule of a man of genius!

It is scarcely necessary to say that the "godlike Shelley" receives fitting appreciation from the biographer, who ranks him with Chaucer, Shakspeare, and Milton, and calls him "the most unspeakable of artists," towards whom "the very soul rushes out as an unapproached poet." Shelley's virtues receive, as it is right they should, no niggard praise, but his faults are not concealed. His habit of telling "portentous stories" is accounted for by his excitable imagination and his practice of taking laudanum; and his conduct to his

first wife is condoned in the following rather grotesque fashion:—

"Harriet was by no means uneducated, nor wanting in those superficial likings for literature which go with education. She was a frank, kind, nice girl, and in all ways worthy of an ordinary man's love. Unfortunately, to so exceptional a man as Shelley her attractions were not made for a permanency; the heart of a poet is 'deep calling to deep,' and if it turns out that there is only shallow to respond, the result is too well assured—

No song, but sad dirges,
Like the wind in a ruined cell.

As Mrs. Siddons said in a tragedy voice to the haberdasher's assistant, 'But will it wash?' Charming Harriet's conjugal gifts of mind and character did not 'wash.'

Southey, whose life, though not faultless, was crowned with noble deeds, gains nothing but a sneer from Mr. Rossetti, who says that he exhibited "the personal spite of a rancorous renegade." Those who know Southey best will not allow that the sneer is well deserved. Southey, like Coleridge and Wordsworth, began life with political views, which like them he changed; but to imply, as Mr. Rossetti implies, that he did it for lucre's sake, is to misread his life. Southey's income, even during the most fruitful period, was comparatively insignificant, and might have been earned with equal ease, probably with more ease, had he let politics alone. "He has convinced me," said Crabb Robinson, "of the perfect exemption of his mind from all dishonourable motives in the change which has taken place in his practical politics and philosophy." Southey did use spiteful language—political opponents in his day seldom spared their words; but it should be remembered to his praise that he generally fought with shadows, and that personal intercourse with opponents at once softened his asperity.

There is much good criticism in Mr. Rossetti's estimate of Coleridge as a poet, and his judgment of Campbell also strikes us as exact and admirable. 'The Pleasures of Hope,' which made Campbell famous in a day, modern readers find well-nigh unreadable, as unreadable as some highly-praised poetry of our own time will probably be eighty years hence; but in his patriotic lyrics he strikes, as Mr. Rossetti observes, the chord of national feeling exactly "with a severe yet masterly and glowing touch; the thing comes right once for all, bears the stamp of a perennial vitality." 'Lalla Rookh,' which appeared several years later than Campbell's first poem, gained also extraordinary popularity, showing how possible it is for tawdry pinchbeck in verse to be accepted as genuine metal. That Moore had a faculty of singing cannot be denied. His chirp was small, but it was sometimes pretty. To quote Mr. Rossetti's rather forced language—

"In the cosical diapason and august orchestra of poetry, Tom Moore's little Pan's-pipe can at odd moments be heard, and interjects an appreciable and rightly combined twiddle or two. To be gratified with these at the instant is no more than the instrument justifies and the executant claims; to think much about them when the organ is pealing or the violin playing (with a Shelley performing on the first or a Mrs. Browning on the second), or to be on the watch for their recurrences, would be equally superfluous and weak-minded."

A volume of biographies that commences with Chaucer and concludes with Mr. Longfellow covers so vast a field and touches upon so many points of interest, that the reader will

be content probably to select some of the Lives for perusal, and to pass by others for a more convenient opportunity. If he be a lover of poetry and poets, it is not to be expected that these short narratives will afford him full satisfaction; but they may serve in many instances to direct his judgment aright, and they supply the student of English poetry with much that is fruitful and suggestive.

The Economy of Consumption: an Omitted Chapter in Political Economy. By Robert Scott Moffat. (C. Kegan Paul & Co.)

Money and Value. By Rowland Hamilton. (Macmillan & Co.)

It may appear a summary mode of dismissing a bulky volume of 660 and odd pages, to say out right that it is not worth reading: yet this is the judgment which we have been compelled to form of Mr. Moffat's volume. We were seized with a fatal misgiving as to the character of the book when we found that it is described on the title-page as an omitted chapter in political economy. It was surely a sign of something wrong when the author showed so little appreciation of the fitness of words. Mr. Moffat confesses that he has not found the study of political economy attractive, and he appears accordingly to have spared himself the uncongenial task as much as possible. He divides the school of Adam Smith into two classes; the first (of which Ricardo is, he says, the leading type) is the school of logic; the second, represented by Malthus and Chalmers, is the school of observation and of fact. Mr. Moffat affirms that it is to the latter of these schools that he gives his adherence. We do not know at what time and in what company it has been determined to sever logic from observation and fact in economic science. The view put forward by Prof. Cairnes in his 'Logical Method of Political Economy,' and accepted by most economists, is that the ultimate premises of political economy are to be found in the ascertained facts of other branches of knowledge; that, starting from these, the political economist logically deduces certain economic laws, the truth of which he endeavours to test by careful comparison with the actual facts of industry and of human nature. The school of logic and the school of observation and fact must be welded together, or no result worth having will be attained. This is also, substantially, the view of the science propounded by Mr. J. S. Mill; but, unfortunately, his name seems to be the red rag to which Mr. Moffat plays the part of the bull. We will give a few extracts:—"Mill's proposals are unscientific, being impracticable as well as morally outrageous." "John Stuart Mill is, however, deeper in the mire of economical fallacies in regard to land than Ricardo. His whole treatment of the question. . . besides being without theoretical foundation, is deeply tainted with practical fallacies, especially with an utterly inadequate, superficial, and short-sighted view of motives." After a long quotation from one of Capt. Marryat's novels, of which the point seems to be that the more décolleté ladies are the better it is for trade, Mr. Moffat asserts that "Capt. Marryat's political economy is better than Mr. Mill's." No doubt the author does himself injustice, but the impression made by these attacks

upon Mr. Mill is that they must be animated by personal or political animosity. It is, of course, open to any more or less qualified person to express dissent from Mr. Mill's economical conclusions; but although, as Mr. Moffat says, he does not belong to the school of logic, we should have thought he would have perceived that logical argument is the only weapon which can be used with any effect to attack Mr. Mill's positions, and that the frothy petulance of which we have quoted specimens only betrays the conscious weakness of the assailant.

One feature of Mr. Moffat's "omitted chapter" will provoke a smile. It is the author's habit of disposing, in a few contemptuous sentences, of the results of the labour of conscientious workers in the science, whose views and methods are at least deserving of respectful treatment. Mr. Moffat sometimes accentuates his wrath for that large section of mankind whose opinions differ from his own by relegating his expressions of crushing scorn to a note. For instance, in three and a half lines, in a note to p. 199, he pours out the vials of his wrath on "economy as studied in the universities." Mr. Moffat is at least impartial. Economy, as studied in the universities has had among its recent representatives men of such different schools as Cairnes, Cliffe Leslie, Jevons, Fawcett, Marshall, Rogers, Darwin, and Price. But Mr. Moffat cannot stop to take account of the different methods pursued by these writers. He says,—"Economy, as commonly studied in the universities, is, I fear, a sorry science" (it will be noted that he does not confine his observations to the British Isles; he speaks, apparently, of the universities of the entire globe). "It has no true practical bearing on anything that happens in this world; and it affords but a poor and arid exercise to intellectual ingenuity. It is the last degree of merited satire to propose to treat it algebraically."

A writer who gives vent to such reckless assertions as these must either be totally unaware of the contributions which have recently been made from English and Irish universities to economics or else he must be quite incapable of judging of their character and value. Cairnes's essays on the gold question, for instance, in which he foretold the exact course which the rise in prices actually took, are in themselves a sufficient answer to Mr. Moffat's assertion that economy as commonly studied in universities has no practical bearing on anything which happens in this world.

Mr. Moffat does not think it either possible or desirable to foster the subdivision of land among peasant proprietors. At least we infer that this is his view; but why could he not state it, and his arguments for it, without such an expression as the following, which is to be found in a note to p. 269? "The economists who think to remedy the ills of industry by making the cultivators proprietors are like a wise mechanic who thinks it would improve the action of a watch to ignore the machinery and attach the mainspring to the hands." Dr. Johnson's, "ignorance—sheer ignorance!" is the only possible comment on such a passage. Cultivators have become proprietors, have even been made proprietors by means of State intervention, in many countries of Europe; something was done to render it

possible for cultivators to make themselves proprietors by the Irish Land Act of 1870. The results of the change, where it has been made, can be inquired into by all who choose to take the trouble to ascertain them; whether it is a desirable change or not is a question of most practical and pressing importance in nearly all newly settled countries. The belief that the change, where it is practicable, would be beneficial is by no means the proof of lunacy which Mr. Moffat represents it to be.

Mr. Moffat severely handles a modern writer on political economy for characterizing primogeniture as "wicked." He gets upon the stilts of high and dry economy at once, and says, "I decline to discuss... whether the law of primogeniture is wicked... My subject is economy, and I cannot take such high ground as morality, or even enter upon general politics." This, though perhaps a trifle prudish, is a highly defensible line; it was, no doubt, a temporary oversight, a mere slip of the pen, that made Mr. Moffat condemn a part of Mill's economic teaching as "morally outrageous"; but what shall we say for Mr. Moffat's virtuous refusal to consider anything that deviates from the straight and narrow path of pure economics, when we find in the very next page that he charges the writer whom he is assailing with being so biased by political passion as to be prevented from even inquiring in the right quarter for a true solution of the problem? What shall we think of the writer who declines to entertain any but economic considerations when he treats us to the opinion that the whole female sex is especially liable to be led by the motives of imitation and rivalry? Supposing this statement to be either new or true, it certainly is not within the range of strict political economy; nor, perhaps, is the assertion that it is more important to a woman to play the piano than to be a proficient in geology; nor (more wonderful still) that the men who approve of what is vulgarly called the women's rights movement are "enraged revolutionists."

We felt bound to give a selection of extracts from this volume, in order to substantiate our assertion that it was not worth reading. Having cautioned our readers against wasting their time over it, we think we have performed our duty both to them and to Mr. Moffat's omitted chapter.

In the Preface to his book on Money and Value, Mr. Hamilton raises a hope which the subsequent pages do not fulfil. He says that it is well in dealing with financial and monetary matters to direct public attention from forms to the realities which lie behind them. Hence the too sanguine reader is led to expect such a book perhaps as the late Mr. Bagehot's 'Lombard Street,' or at least one on a plan similar to Prof. Jevons's 'Money.' But no shadow of realization is given to either of these expectations; the facts of exchange and of industry are not brought into clear light, they are rather darkened by a mass of words and images, which are, as far as possible, removed from those which would be necessary to bring the "realities" of finance vividly before the reader. Mr. Hamilton is indeed more persistently and consistently up in the clouds than almost any economic writer whom we have ever tried to understand. Even his illustrations are, as far as possible, removed from anything which could possibly happen

under the existing conditions of the physical world. He exemplifies the inconveniences of a variation in a supposed standard of value by the case of a tailor whose ell measure spontaneously elongates; his typical bubble company is one formed for the purpose of "extracting moonbeams from cucumbers." A judicious use of purely fanciful illustrations may, no doubt, be occasionally made to serve a good purpose; but they are dangerous weapons in unskilful hands, and, in the case before us, they symbolize the writer's utter failure to fulfil the hope that his book was one dealing with the realities of money and value.

In some cases the writer uses illustrations which might, perhaps, be true, but which certainly are not so. For example, in speaking of the way in which money facilitates exchange, and of the results of open traffic, he says:—"Thus in time of famine the population of an Indian village is found to be in danger of starvation. The stores are empty; for not long since the grain in them was sold. Silver, and with equal discrimination roads also, are at once set down as the cause of the destitution." This is a charge of imbecility, to which the English public will not plead guilty. The want of roads, and the want of accumulated stores of silver, or of any other kind of property, are universally recognized as the accessory causes of Indian famines, the primary cause being invariably the failure of the ordinary crops, on which the people are dependent for their daily food.

Of the theoretical part of Mr. Hamilton's book, it is difficult to speak with any confidence. After hours of patient reading, we have to confess that his style very often completely baffles us. After going through a paragraph half a dozen times, we have frequently remained ignorant even of the drift of what it is intended to convey. And sometimes when the meaning is discovered at last, it is found to have been not worth the trouble of sifting it out from the mass of verbiage which envelops it. The familiar fact that difference in natural fertility is the cause of economic rent, is thus expressed by Mr. Hamilton:—

"Thus the economic rent of land under culture, as far as it represents a fact in nature, must as inevitably accrue as the difference in value between rich and poor metalliferous ores which can be worked at the same outlay. Land and ore are both 'natural agents,' and if in the same sense they are unequal in value, the inequality can be identified as soon as the fact of the difference becomes known, and exists not the less because the overt expression of it may be suppressed by custom or overlooked from ignorance. If a division be essayed on the basis of an equality of production, an unequal balance of human energy, or potentially productive labour, is thrown out; if on the basis of an equality of human exertion, a difference in the quantity of products is the necessary result."

This is a fair example of Mr. Hamilton's treatment of economic propositions that have become in the hands of other writers as easy as A B C. When he translates into his own style what was easy and familiar, it is sufficiently difficult to follow him; but when he leaves the known for the unknown, the task of comprehension seems hopeless. If there is anything new and valuable in 'Money and Value,' we must hope that it will be rediscovered and set forth by some writer who pos-

sees the gift of making himself understood, without too arduous an effort, by his readers.

Thoughts and Experiences of a Charity Organizationist. By J. Hornsby Wright. With an Introduction by the Rev. E. H. Carr. (Hunt & Co.)

Ninth Report of the Society for Organizing Charitable Relief. (Office of the Society.)

THERE are few social questions which have more urgent claims upon the public attention than that of charity organization, and Mr. Hornsby Wright has exercised a sound judgment in putting on record his long experiences in connexion with a subject of so much importance to the community. It is true that he writes in a singularly quaint and eccentric style, makes frequent but rather painful attempts to be humorous, and at the same time exhibits a tendency to digress into moral and religious reflections with which the reader would have been glad to dispense; but, notwithstanding these drawbacks, he has succeeded in placing before the public a series of pictures of what he calls "unorganized charity" which are calculated to produce a deep impression on the minds of the thoughtful, and to induce even the thoughtless to pause ere they squander their money upon shameless impostors, or help by their benefactions to swell the hideous roll of pauperism. Mr. Wright has made an effort to excite in the breast of reckless almsgivers some idea of the mischief which they are doing, some sense of the responsibility which they owe to that society whose best interests they are unconsciously striving to subvert; and it is manifest that this object is most likely to be attained not by didactic teaching but by a series of homely illustrations, drawn from real life, of the folly of distributing money in charity without making adequate inquiries both as to the worthiness of the object and as to the mode in which it is desirable that relief should be administered.

The volume contains ample proof not only of the versatile and artful manner in which impostors ply their trade, but also of the deteriorating influence of charity upon those who, in the first instance, are justly entitled to sympathy and help. Mr. Wright, for example, mentions the case of a tutor of ability, who, falling into temporary difficulties, too readily obtained substantial help from old friends, and thus gradually acquired the habit of living at the expense of the public. He was accustomed to tell the story of his misfortunes in a bluff, straightforward manner, and, by way of confirmation, was always able to produce the letters in which those who had known him in better days had enclosed the remittances intended to relieve his wants. Yet, as the result showed, the people to whose benevolence he had successfully appealed were all the while simply supporting him in a life of criminal idleness and profligacy. This case is one of a class which, as a rule, cannot be satisfactorily investigated by private individuals, as it requires experience no less than an expenditure of time and labour to sift them thoroughly. "Beware of testimonials" once remarked the present Prime Minister; and unquestionably the readiness with which such certificates of character are given is one of the evils of our time. Many of these documents exhibit an

utter want of truthfulness on the part of the good-natured persons who draw them up, and who doubtless feel a large amount of secret satisfaction in contemplating their unscrupulous kind-heartedness. Mr. Wright states that hundreds of testimonials, deposing to the sobriety and good conduct of men who were exactly the opposite of what they were described, have passed through his hands. He cites a case in which the testimonial set forth that the bearer had always conducted himself with business-like propriety, was correct in his accounts, and attentive to his duties. The man who held these excellent credentials obtained a situation on the strength of them, but turned out a drunkard and committed embezzlement; and on inquiry the fact was brought to light that his conduct had been very unsatisfactory in his previous employment. Nevertheless, when the author of the false testimonial was called upon to explain his conduct in writing it, he contended that it was "in a loving sense true"; that it had been given the man in the belief that it would enable him to find *bonâ fide* employment; and, finally, that "no man could do better if he would simply and solemnly do his duty." Cheap philanthropy of this kind, bestowed at other people's expense, deserves punishment as well as exposure, and the more so because of the sentimental clap-trap by which it is usually accompanied.

It is natural that the incentives to pauperism by which the poorer classes are unfortunately surrounded should tend to weaken, if not to destroy, their feelings of independence and self-respect. We have no doubt that Mr. Wright lays down a sound principle when he affirms that it is dangerous "to relax the industry by very little, or to let down to a small and imperceptible extent economical habits." The pauperizing effects of parochial relief may be felt for generations; and indeed, at the present moment, we are, in this respect, not only suffering for the errors of our ancestors, but are as actively engaged as ever they were in transmitting to posterity the seeds of pauperism. It is not the grosser forms of the evil which are perhaps likely to prove most injurious to society. For example, the traffic which is regularly going on in medical relief at our hospitals and dispensaries does not excite the same indignation as many other kinds of fraud, but nevertheless it would be difficult to estimate the mischief which results from this practice. In London medical letters, it appears, are regularly collected at the doors of the rich, and sold at prices varying from sixpence to a shilling apiece. So long, however, as persons in a respectable position dress shabbily, in order to obtain as out-patients free medical relief at the London hospitals, it is hardly surprising that a class below them should resort to equally objectionable expedients to cheat the doctors. Mr. Wright states that lately a highly respectable medical practitioner informed the Marylebone Charity Organization Society, "that, to his knowledge, many persons better able than himself to pay for medical advice were at that moment receiving the benefits of an old established medical charity in the parish." The remedy for these abuses is the establishment of Provident Dispensaries,—and it is gratifying to learn that many such institutions have been formed, and are in successful operation,

in both town and country. The comparative ease with which young women of bad character are now able to obtain admission to convalescent homes, and the facilities for corrupting the innocent of their own sex which they thus acquire, is a feature of the existing system which imperatively calls for reform. The reluctance of many of the working classes to maintain their indigent parents is another illustration of the selfishness often induced by pauper habits. The workhouse is regarded by such persons as the proper refuge for old age or decrepitude, and so little are they influenced by filial duty or by a sense of shame that an association is actually in existence for the purpose of bringing about a repeal of "the unjust and cruel law" which requires children to support their parents. It would, however, be a mistake to suppose that the humbler classes have a monopoly of these unnatural feelings. The archives of the Marylebone Committee contain the details of a case in which an aged female applicant for charity was accompanied by a lady who testified both to the need and to the respectability of her companion. When she found that relief would not be afforded without the usual preliminaries, she expressed great surprise that in such a case any inquiry should be considered necessary. How necessary it was to inquire into the truth of her story was shown by the sequel; for it turned out that she was the old lady's own daughter, married to a merchant in the city, and that the person whose name had been given as a reference was another daughter—the wife of a gentleman occupying a good position under Government.

Mr. Wright shows that, except under rigorous conditions as to repayment, the practice of granting benevolent loans, even in cases of real distress, is certain to be abused, and he particularly animadverts on the habit, so prevalent among almsgivers, of "treating pawn tickets as so many conclusive certificates of need." He also emphatically reprobates "overlapping" or "mumping," that is to say, the practice of giving relief in excess of the needs of the individuals relieved. The best story under this head which Mr. Wright tells is that of a clergyman of his acquaintance who was asked by a sick man for "prayer and coals." As the reverend gentleman was about to engage in devotional exercises an empty grate attracted his attention and excited his sympathy; but at this interesting moment the door flew open, and a man entered, staggering under the weight of a large sack of coals. We can readily credit Mr. Wright's description of "the mute anguish of the sick man" as the inconvenient visitor, in order to discharge his burden, opened the door of a closet, "and revealed to the astonished gaze of the intending suppliant coal enough to keep a dozen fires burning for as many days." On the other hand Mr. Wright illustrates in a striking manner the evil effects of inadequate relief in deserving cases. A constant succession of small doles inevitably pauperizes, while a lump sum, advanced under proper guarantees, may save a family from ruin. There is also evidence in these pages that a little severity, especially before the delinquent has had time to become a hardened offender, is calculated to act as a deterrent of crime. The reader will, we think, be much struck with the case of a man who, according to Mr. Wright, used regu-

larly to beat his wife, but after a course of prison discipline never repeated the offence. Subsequently he found his way back to the treadmill for refusing to maintain his family. On his liberation he took good care never again to allow them to go on the parish. Prison discipline cured him of both bad habits. A fact like this is pregnant with instruction.

"Unorganized Charity" has its warm partisans, and even boasts of a poet (!) who, after declaring that there are many persons who cannot stop to question beggars in the street, applauds them for taking as their motto, "Better to give to all than give to none." The advocates of indiscriminate charity twist and torture Scripture into their service; and, indeed, their logic is on a par with that of the drunken pauper, who asked, "What would become of them poor relieving officers and their families if it was not for us poor drunks?" St. Cyprian states that in the early Christian Church aid used "to be granted, not by chance, but with care, and preceded by an inquiry, in which the most exact and circumstantial information was obtained; the age of the applicant, his profession, the number of his children, his character, the cause of his distress, being entered in a special register—a *matricula*." It is obvious that, as Mr. Wright points out, it is practically impossible for the great majority of the benevolent to undertake such an investigation for themselves.

The Rev. E. H. Carr, a former London incumbent, who writes a Preface to Mr. Wright's book, suggests that in every parish the work of investigation should be conducted by a parochial council; but, whatever may be the agency set up, we believe that the only machinery which can effectually root out mendicancy is that employed by the Charity Organization Societies.

NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

Ingerstein Hall. By G. Routledge. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

On the Banks of the Delaware. By the Author of the 'Château de Vésinet.' 2 vols. (Chapman & Hall.)

Thro' the Shadow. 2 vols. (S. Tinsley & Co.) The author of 'Ingerstein Hall' has, perhaps, been more successful than many who have attempted to revive the historical novel. But the numerous actors by whose aid he illustrates the stirring scenes of the Thirty Years' War are as nearly as possible lay figures. He has, perhaps, prudently avoided altogether any attempt to reproduce the speech and manners of the seventeenth century; but, in escaping the impossible mannerisms which usually beset that attempt, he has failed to give one any sense of reality in the good people who discuss Gustavus and the Palatinate in poorish English of the modern type. His purpose is to show how the Thirty Years' War was a proximate cause of the English civil war of that century (which is in some sense an historical truism), and also, less successfully, to connect the lessons of the German struggle with the development of the principles of Independency. It is likely enough that many of the partisan soldiers returned to England with their political horizon widened, and their religious antipathies somewhat less sharply defined, but that the Cromwellian "saints" ever consciously subordinated religion

to secular politics does not seem to accord with history. Sectarianism, then as now, lived upon polemics, and maintained a social struggle under the flag of religion. The extremely modern Nonconformists, represented in these pages in the garb of Roundheads, retain through all vicissitudes of opinion a stout intolerance of the national Church. They are not in themselves interesting beyond the ordinary level of fiction, but they are taken through so many adventures in their foreign service, and the chapters of history imported into the book are in themselves of such signal interest, that, apart from the novel proper, which is somewhat dull, the result is a readable and, in some respects, a worthy book.

'On the Banks of the Delaware' is a pretty tale, which derives its interest rather from the picturesque and unfamiliar surroundings of the American Quaker family than from any great depth of character in the personages described. John Plymley, the gentleman farmer in an unusual sense of the words, is a fine specimen of his race and creed, and his chivalrous admiration of the English lady, who comes into his homely circle with all the advantage of contrast, is as manly as it is simple and sincere. But, with that exception, there is nothing very remarkable about the characters, though the intriguing old Countess and her son, the rather selfish Mr. Grant, who so nearly sacrifices his daughter's happiness to his own comfort, and the Quaker maids and matrons are well described as far as they go. A scene from the horrors of the siege of Paris contrasts well with the peaceful river banks of Delaware; and the story is happily concluded when John has rescued from the grave the girl who has learnt in her trouble to value his constancy and worth.

'Thro' the Shadow' is a novel of the sickly sentimental order, and is silly of its kind. Its writer is doubtless a young lady of vivid and highly coloured imaginations; but, unfortunately, the things which she imagines are not true to life, and scarcely worth repeating even if they were so. A certain "I, Dorothy Hare," falls in love, at first sight, with a gallant captain, who has a wife living, and who is further adored by the widow of an earl. The captain makes love to Dorothy, believing, on no very sufficient evidence, that his wife is dead; and then, suddenly discovering his mistake, he rushes off to Ashantee. It takes him barely five chapters to get out to Africa and back. As soon as he returns he asks the young and infatuated girl to "fly with him," which she duly refuses to do, thereby condemning her lover, as any one might have foreseen, to a flirtation with the widowed countess in a railway carriage, and to a retributive railway accident, which leads up to the inevitable death-bed scene and to a couple of rows of asterisks on the last page. There are materials in all this for a love-story wrought up to the highest pitch of passion; and, if our author had known how to use them, she might have produced a romance which has already been fairly written a dozen times within the present generation. It is true that she approaches very near to the genuine delineation of a burning and a blighted affection. Thus, in the midst of a struggle which ends by her consenting to "fly," Dorothy hears "the evil one" glozing in her ear:—

"Can a few words spoken by a mumbling priest be so binding in God's sight, who surely has in-

tended his creatures to be happy, and has given them all these warm human affections? Relent; go to I'Anson, and enter your earthly paradise! Think of what your life will be . . . No child will ever call you by the sacred name of mother. No soft arms will twine about your neck; no toddling steps or sweet baby voices will cheer your dreary days."

On the whole, it is perhaps as well that a writer of such manifestly ambitious designs should not have succeeded in writing a really powerful story.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

MESSRS. CHATTO & WINDUS send us for notice *Three Years of the Eastern Question*, by the Rev. Malcolm MacColl. This volume contains a fairly accurate and interesting account of the dealings of the British with the Russian and Turkish Governments since the outbreak of the insurrection in Bosnia. The narrative is, however, interspersed with violent tirades against the Prime Minister, which somewhat mar the value of the book as a piece of history.

MR. SCHÜTZ WILSON, who is well known as a distinguished climber, has collected, under the title of *Alpine Ascents and Adventures* (Sampson Low & Co.), some brightly written accounts of his adventures among his favourite Alps. The volume will prove interesting to mountaineers, and perhaps, also, to some people who do not value so highly the chance of breaking their necks.

MESSRS. HARDWICKE & BOGUE send us Mr. Walford's useful book of reference, *The County Families of the United Kingdom*. It speaks well for the enterprise of the publishers that they bring out this handsome volume annually. An index is now added of country seats, and, where the editor's inquiries have not been answered, the acreage and rent-roll of estates have been inscribed from the so-called 'Modern Doomsday Book.' The clearness of the typography and the excellent arrangement of this work are worthy of all praise.

MESSRS. MAY send us their convenient and well arranged *Press Guide*.

MESSRS. MARCUS WARD & Co. have sent us a number of Easter cards. Some of the floral designs show much taste and good colour.

We have received some numbers of the *Harvard Library Bulletin*, which show how active and judicious a librarian Mr. Justin Winsor is making.

THE *Practical English-Sanskrit Dictionary*, by Anundoram Boroah, Vol. I. (Trübner & Co.), which will be completed in three volumes, bids fair to be a work of high merit. We will at present mention only some of its characteristic points. In the case of those words for which there are exact or very near equivalents in Sanskrit the author has been wisely fastidious in giving none but the nearest Sanskrit terms. With respect to the numerous words the ideas of which can only be conveyed by different modes of expression, he cites phrases from classical writers in illustration of those ideas, and as regards the rendering of terms which have evolved from new discoveries in European science and thought he has skillfully availed himself of the unsurpassed pliancy and malleability of the Sanskrit language in finding or coining appropriate equivalents. In this respect the dictionary may act as a safeguard against the indiscriminate admission of English technical words into the vernaculars of Northern India. We propose to recur to this important work in greater detail on its completion.

THE second volume of the Reports of the Slavonic Benevolent Society of St. Petersburg (or, in other words, the Panславист Committee) has been issued. Many of the papers are interesting and valuable, among which we may mention the report of A. Moshnin, late Russian Consul at Rustchuk, on the present condition of Bulgaria, and another, by Prof. Drinov, entitled 'Bulgaria on the Eve of her Devastation.' From a literary point of view

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the notice of the intellectual labours of the Slovaks during the past ten years is curious, and the narrow-minded and selfish policy of the Hungarians towards the Slovaks is shown in its true colours in a very forcible paper.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Theology.

- Allnatt's (Mrs. R. H.) *Mamma's Biographies from the Church Service Calendar*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
 Baird's (Rev. J.) *Living Saviour*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
 Gelikie's (C.) *Old Testament Portraits*, 4to. 7/6 cl.
 Leclier's (Prof.) *John Wiclif and his English Precursors*, translated by P. Lorimer, 2 vols. 8vo. 21/ cl.
 Macarthur's (Rev. A.) *Beloved in his Garden*, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
 "Our God Shall Come," Addresses on the Second Coming of Our Lord, cr. 8vo. 1/6 swd.

Poetry.

- Dixon's (C.) *The Longfellow Birthday Book*, 32mo. 2/6 cl.
 Thornton's (W. T.) *Word for Word from Horace, the Odes Literally Versified*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.

Law.

- Holdsworth's (W. A.) *Practical Lawyer*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 Indermann's (J.) *Manual of Practice of Supreme Court of Judicature*, 8vo. 10/ cl.

Heraldry.

- Burke's (Sir B.) *General Armory of England, &c.*, new edition, roy. 8vo. 52/6

Geography and Travels.

- Bedecker's (K.) *London and Environs*, Handbook for Travelers, 18mo. 5/ cl. lp.
 Eyre's (S.) *Sketches of Russian Life and Customs*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.

Archæology.

- Dyer's (Rev. T. F. T.) *British Popular Customs*, 12mo. 5/ cl. (Bohn's Antiquarian Library.)

History and Biography.

- D'Aubigné's (Rev. J. H. M.) *History of the Reformation in Time of Calvin*, Vol. 8, 8vo. 21/ cl.
 Frohner's (Sir M.) *Life*, by Rev. F. Jones, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
 Guizot's (M.) *History of England*, translated by M. Thomas, Vol. 2, 4to. 24/ cl.
 MacColl's (Rev. M.) *Three Years of the Eastern Question*, 5/ cl.
 Martin (John), *Life and Remains of a Legacy*, by Author of "John Halifax," 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 21/ cl.
 Milman's (H. H.) *History of the Jews*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 My Instructive and Amusing History of England, 2/6 cl. swd.
 New History of the British Empire, edited by J. M. D. Meiklehan, cr. 8vo. 3/ cl.

Philology.

- Cesar's *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, Books 1 to 7, edited by L. Schmitz, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
 Latham's (R. G.) *Outlines of General or Developmental Philology*, Induction, cr. 8vo. 4/6 cl.
 Embrooke's (W. G.) *First Greek Reader*, 12mo. 2/6 cl.

Science.

- André's (G. G.) *Mining Machinery*, Vol. 2, 4to. 36/ cl.
 Fleming's (W.) *Index to our Railway System*, 2nd Part, roy. 8vo. 2/6 swd.
 Fletcher's (W.) *Abuse of the Steam Jacket Considered*, 3/ swd.
 Fourier's (J.) *Analytical Theory of Heat*, translated by A. Freeman, 8vo. 16/ cl.
 Hoskner's (Capt. V.) *Laying and Repairing Electric Telegraph Cables*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.
 Industrial Chemistry Based upon a Translation of Payen's "Précis de Chimie Industrielle," edited by B. H. Paul, 42/ Newth's (A. H.) *Manual of Necroscopy*, 12mo. 5/ cl.
 Parkin's (J.) *Antidotal Treatment of Disease*, Part 1, 7/6 cl.
 Tris's (W.) *Handrailing on the Block System*, 8vo. 5/ cl.

General Literature.

- Blue Roses, by Author of "Véra," 1 vol. cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.
 Constantinople, How We Got There, by an Engineer, 2/6 cl.
 Dowden's (E.) *Studies in Literature*, 1789-1877, cr. 8vo. 13/ cl.
 Evans's (A. J.) *Illyrian Letters*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 French Heiress (A.) in Her Own Château, by Author of "One Only," cr. 8vo. 12/6 cl.
 Howells's (G.) *Conflicts of Capital and Labour*, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
 James's (A. M.) *Life of Fellowship*, 12mo. 2/6 cl.
 Smart's (H.) *Play or Pay*, 12mo. 2/ bds. (Select Library of Fiction.)
 Trollope's (A.) *Is He Popenjoy? a Novel*, 3 vols. cr. 8vo. 31/6 cl.

QUEEN MARY'S FOOL.

THEY who have had occasion to refer to that curious book, 'The Privy Purse Expenses of the Princess Mary,' published by Sir Francis (then Mr.) Madden, forty-seven years ago, can hardly have missed coming upon the notices scattered through the volume of disbursements on account of "Jane the Fool." There are charges entered for her dress, "for a coffer for her," for "the keeper of her horse," and very frequent payments "to the Barbor for shaving Jany's hed" (the fee for which was apparently 4d. in 1543, and was raised after this to 8d.). These Privy Purse expenses begin in December, 1536, and extend to December, 1544; that is, they have to do with the time when "the Lady Mary," after her submission to her father and reconciliation with him, was allowed to set up a separate establishment, and they continue almost down to the time when she was named in the Third Act of Succession as "the Kinges Highnes daughter." During all these eight years Jane the Fool seems to have been her constant attendant, and to have been a great favourite with the Princess. In July,

1544, the poor woman seems to have had a serious illness; and, again, two years after Mary had become queen, we find a note of a payment "to a woman dwelling at Burye, for healing Jane the Foole her eye." Nor does Henry the Eighth himself seem to have regarded her with mere indifference. Sir Francis Madden tells us that, "in all probability, this very person is intended to be represented in the interesting painting by Holbein of Henry the Eighth and his family, which formerly ornamented the meeting-room of the Society of Antiquaries at Somerset House, and which is now at Windsor"; and he gives us a reference to an order of the king in 1540, whereby Sir Anthony Denny is required to deliver certain quantities of silks and stuffs, among other people, to "Jane the Fool."

Unhappily the original of Queen Mary's will has disappeared, and in that copy of it which still exists in Harl. MS. 6949, and which Sir F. Madden prints as he finds it, there is a tantalizing omission which will now probably never be supplied, though we are told, "Then follow in the will several particular legacies to her women and other servants about her, which in all amount to 3,400l." Whether any particular legacy was left to "Jane the Fool" it is idle now to conjecture. Even the woman's name was lost, and few could have expected that it would ever be discovered. During the course of some researches into Norfolk history, however, I happen to have stumbled upon some scraps of information about "Jane the Fool" which may be of interest to some of your readers; at any rate, they are at your disposal.

Among the closest and the dearest of the Princess Mary's friends and attendants were Henry Jerningham and his wife, who was her lady in waiting, and who attended upon her at her coronation. The queen took an early opportunity of knighting Mr. Jerningham, appointed him Vice-Chamberlain in 1556, and Master of the Horse in 1557, and, further, made him some very extensive grants of land, a portion of which, and especially the Manor of Cossey in Norfolk, is still in the possession of Sir Henry Jerningham's lineal descendant, Lord Stafford.

At Queen Elizabeth's accession all hope of further preferment was gone for Sir Henry Jerningham, being, as he was, a firm and conscientious Catholic, and strongly opposed to the tenets of the Reformation. Accordingly he retired from court, and came down to Norfolk, where he employed himself in building Cossey Hall, which still stands, and has never ceased to be occupied from that day to this by the Jerninghams, who have had the good taste to leave the old house intact, though a glorious mansion has been added on to the original and less ambitious pile.

Sir Henry Jerningham died in 1573, having made his will on the 15th of August of the previous year. In it occurs the following bequest:—"Item, I give and bequeath to old *Jone Cooper* my old gown; And also I will that my wife for term of her life, and after her decease my heirs, shall pay yearly to the said *Jone Cooper*, as my bequest and legacy, the sum of xxvii. viij. d., by even portions, at the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel and at our Lady Day in Lent, every year, for term of the life of the said *Jone Cooper*, with meat and drink and Lodging within my house: And if it shall fortune that my wife during her life, or any heir after her decease, shall by any occasion remove or put out the said *Jone Cooper* from my house, Then I will and bequeath to her out of my Manor of Cossey, to be paid yearly by even portions, . . . the sum of Four Pounds by year, . . . for her maintenance and finding for term of her life."

Frances Lady Jerningham survived her husband more than ten years. Cossey was settled upon her ladyship for life, and her eldest son resided at Wingfield Castle on the borders of Suffolk, which three centuries ago must have been a far more magnificent abode than Cossey. But Lady Jerningham (her son was not knighted) kept her state at Cossey, and lived there as a representative personage, not without suspicion of harbouring priests and having mass said in her house, spite

of the penal laws. Her will, too, is before me, and by one of its clauses she directs as follows:—"Also I do give unto *Joane Fool* four pounds in money, or twenty shillings a year as long as she liveth, which shall be thought best for her at the discretion of my executor, over and besides the *Four pounds yearly which was given her by my late husband*; and I give unto her one feather-bed bolster and covering, and all these premises (*sic*) not otherwise except my son shall refuse to keep and maintain her during her life in his house, the which I do rather wish for him to keep her, for that she hath been a long servant (*sic*), than to put her away out of his house."

So that "Jane the Foole" is Sir Henry's "Jone Cooper," and Lady Jerningham's "Joane Foole."

In August, 1578, Queen Elizabeth paid a visit to Norwich; and on Tuesday, the 19th, she set out from the Bishop's Palace to "hunt" at Cossey Park—hunt in the dog-days! At St. Bennets Gates she was stopped by a "Pageant," which is duly described in Nichols' 'Progresses' (vol. ii. p. 151). What the "hunting" could have been it is difficult to imagine. I have my own suspicion in the matter, but I forbear from stating it now. It has been said, and is generally believed, that Sir Henry Jerningham entertained Her Majesty. This is certainly false, nor do I believe that his son was present on the occasion. No mention of any entertainment is to be found; and there was no time for the "hunting" after the "pleasant show," and the Latin speech of the minister of the Dutch Church. But it is quite conceivable, and to me it seems probable, that one object of the queen in visiting Cossey at all was to see old "Jone Foole," whom she must well have remembered thirty or forty years before at her father's court, with her shorn head and her motley dress, and her jokes and drollery. Whether she did see her, talk over old scenes, and leave some remembrance behind her, I suppose we shall never know. All that, and a great deal more, has gone down into silence. It is pleasant to be able to prove that "Joane Foole" was not turned out of Cossey in her old age; pleasant to find that the poor woman continued to be kept to the end as a retainer in the household in which she had lived so long; for in the Parish Register of Cossey, which is now at my elbow, I find under the year 1585 the following entry:—"Sepulta fuit Johana Cowper, 14^o die Aprilis."

AUGUSTUS JESSOP, D.D.

"THE COMING MAN"

Reform Club, April, 1878.

I FIND in the *Daily Telegraph* of Jan. 24th a long letter signed by Mr. Charles Reade, entitled "The Coming Man." I have since read several other letters on the same subject from the same pen. Attracted by the title, and unaware whether the coming man was to appear as an emperor, a general, a statesman, a philosopher, a poet, or perhaps a Heaven-sent genius, who was to give peace to our distracted Europe, I discovered that in the writer's estimation the "Coming Man" was to be the type of a new generation who were to be taught to use the left hand with the same facility as the present generation use the right.

Will you permit me to state, as a matter that may or may not be of literary interest, that in the year 1870 I published in *All the Year Round* a paper, entitled 'A Plea for the Left Hand,' which I republished in 1871 in a volume (Sampson Low & Co.) entitled 'Under the Blue Sky'?

I cannot but agree in the facts and arguments of Mr. Reade's letters, inasmuch as they are the same as my own, as put forward seven years ago. I cannot think, however, that Mr. Reade is correct in deriving the Scottish word "gowk," a fool, from the French *gauche*, the left hand. "Gowk," in the Scottish vernacular, signifies a cuckoo, and a cuckoo signifies a fool, for the reason stated in Allan Ramsay's Scottish proverbs, "Ye breed of the gowk, ye have but one song, and ye're always singing it." There are other illustrations of the word in Jamieson's Scottish Dictionary, which

Mr. Reade might consult if he ever republishes his letters.

CHARLES MACKAY.

THE PRAISE OF DANCING.

ONE of the most exquisite passages of lighter Elizabethan song which have been handed down to us is that fragment of 'Orchestra,' a poem in praise of dancing, which Sir John Davys completed in fifteen days, and published at London in 1596. This charming jewel of airy and fantastic verse, which moves in the recurring step of its stately *rhyme royal* with the air of some old Spanish galliard or corrauto, is so unique in its character that I think it is of interest to note that a poem singularly identical in subject and similar in treatment exists in early Dutch literature. I find among the posthumous poems of Hendrick Laurensen Spiegel, the typical humanist and literary reformer of the Dutch Renaissance, a very curious and beautiful poem that instantly recalls to the English student the 'Orchestra' of Sir John Davys. 'T' Lof van Danssen,' or 'The Praise of Dancing,' is a poem in a six-line stanza of alexandrines, in which the author, after confessing that he long hesitated before attempting so dangerous a subject as dancing, states that he has determined at last to treat of it. Davys and Spiegel both affect to give an historical sketch of the origin and progress of "the authentical and laudable use of dancing"; the former, in his chivalrous imagining of Penelope and the amorous knight Antinous, has greatly the advantage of Spiegel, who recounts in a more commonplace way the instances of dancing recorded in the Scriptures and by the ancients. As an instance, I may translate one stanza:—

In Delos no god's service without dancing was;
The priests of Rome in dances to their shrines did pass,
In all their rites religious and prelati:
Plato himself hath set down laws to rule the dance,
Then be ye silent, ye that blame us with a glance,
Since all this folk have danced, and been so proud withal.

But when the poets begin to discuss the philosophical origin and purpose of dancing, their arguments are closely similar. Spiegel points out that the arts of arithmetic and music pursue their course with dancing, and Davys makes precisely the same remark. Both quote the humanistic art of rhetoric to support their cause. Davys says:—

And therefore now the Thracian Orpheus' lyre
And Hercules himself are stilled,
while we find in Spiegel,—

For that cause Orpheus and Musæus, as we read,
Are crowned in heaven above with laurel-wreaths for aye,

Davys himself having mentioned Musæus in the preceding stanza. I may give one more example of coincidence of treatment. The Dutch poet writes,—

Whence it appears that men danced in the olden time
In dances praising God with joyous song and rhyme,
And thus among mankind the dancing art began:
But, long before, the stars within their firmament
From age to age in swift harmonious dances went,
And thus from Heaven itself the dance came down to man.

Sir John Davys thus expands the same idea in his copious and caressing style,—

First you see fix'd, in this huge mirror blue,
Of trembling lights a number numberless,
Fix'd they are named, but with a name untrue,
For they all move, and in a dance express
That great long year, that doth contain no less
Than three-score hundreds of those years in all,
Which the sun makes with his course natural.

Spiegel was born in 1549; Davys twenty years later. The 'Lof van Danssen' was probably written a little later than 1585, when the great Dutchman, like his earlier contemporary in France, Joachim du Bellay, was destroying the old labours of the rhetoricians, and writing poems in a fresh and modern manner to serve as types of what others should follow. In 1593 we know that Davys had written the 'Orchestra,' and three years later it was printed; but Spiegel's poem did not see the light until 1614, two years after the author's death, when Roemer Visscher, publishing his own erotic and epigrammatic poems, printed it, with other of Spiegel's writings, at the end of the volume. There is, therefore, plainly no possibility that either author should have been

influenced by the other, and it seems a very curious instance of literary coincidence.

EDMUND W. GOSSE.

Literary Gossip.

It seems probable that the Copyright Commission will recommend uniform legislation for Literature, Art, Music, and the Drama. It will further propose that authors should have power to prevent their works from being dramatized.

MR. MURRAY promises for the coming season the late Capt. Elton's book, which we have already mentioned, 'From Mozambique to Nyassa, Uchungu, and Usango: a Journal of Adventurers' Discoveries, with Notes on the Suppression of the Slave Trade.' The volume will contain additions from the pen of Mr. H. B. Cotterill. The same publisher announces Capt. Forbes's 'Sketches of the Natives of Burmah'; and 'Twenty Years' Residence among the Greeks, Albanians, Turks, Armenians, and Bulgarians,' by an English Lady, edited by Mr. Stanley Lane Poole.

READERS who observed a telegram in the *Times* a few days ago may like to know that M. Renan writes to a correspondent:—"Mon Caliban est une pure fantaisie, un dialogue idéal; je le ferai paraître ces jours-ci dans le *Temps*."

A NEW volume of poems by Mr. Longfellow, entitled 'Keramos, and other Poems,' will be issued immediately by his English publishers, Messrs. George Routledge & Sons.

THE Dean of St. Paul's is going to republish his essay on Dante. Appended to it will, it is said, be a translation of the 'De Monarchia,' by the Dean's son.

WE understand that Mr. W. Fraser Rae will contribute a paper to an early number, probably the next, of the *Nineteenth Century*, on 'Political Clubs and Party Organization,' in which some new and unpublished particulars will be given of a Radical Club to which the Earl of Beaconsfield once belonged, and of the establishment of our great political clubs, more particularly the Reform. The system of party organization known as the Birmingham plan will also be dealt with from a neglected point of view.

THE Duke of Devonshire has authorized the reproduction of photolithographic fac-similes of his copies of the first and second quartos of 'Hamlet,' and certain other first quartos of Shakspeare's plays. The fac-similes will be made by Mr. W. Griggs, long the photolithographer of the India Office, under the superintendence of Mr. Furnivall, who, with the help of Mr. P. A. Daniel, Mr. T. Alfred Spalding, and other competent Shakspeare scholars, will furnish the critical Introductions to the plays. It is hoped that the fac-similes may be issued at the cost of six shillings each to subscribers, and that the series will contain all the first Shakspeare quartos, and many other early plays and scarce tracts.

MR. JOHN BELLOWES, of Gloucester, has just discovered in the archives of the city the original entries of certain costs and charges incurred in the burning of Bishop Hooper, in February, 1555. The entries are given in the accounts of the City Chamberlain as "Allowance in money gevyne in rewarde to

the kyng and Quenes servantes at the bryngyne downe off maister Hooper to be brent by the comaundement of maister maire and his bretherne." There are other entries of money paid in connexion with the event, and a comparison of names and dates with those given in 'Foxe's Book of Martyrs' shows the accuracy of the martyrologist's account. A fac-simile of the page of the accounts has been lithographed, and will be published in the *Transactions* of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Club.

WE regret to learn that Prof. W. K. Clifford has again broken down in health, and has been ordered by his doctors to take a sea voyage at once. This, however, will not prevent the publication of a considerable part of his work on the Elements of Dynamic, announced in No. 2605 of the *Athenæum*. About two-thirds of the work, forming a complete treatise on Kinematic, has been finally revised by the author, and will be published almost immediately by Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

MR. VAN LAUN is engaged upon a 'History of Literary Exiles in England,' a subject capable of being made extremely interesting, both to Englishmen and to foreigners.

MESSRS. GRIFFITH & FARRAN have in the press for immediate publication a work entitled 'The Crimean Campaign with the Connaught Rangers, 1854-56,' by Lieut.-Col. N. Steevens. It contains a personal narrative of events from the embarkation of the 88th Connaught Rangers in April, 1854, to their return to England in July, 1856, including the battles of Alma and Inkerman, the miseries of the winter 1854-5, and relating the events during eleven months in the trenches before Sebastopol.

THE contents of the three remaining volumes of the Speaker's Commentary, which Mr. Murray publishes, will be divided as follows:—Vol. II. St. John, by Prof. Westcott; The Acts, by the Bishop of Chester. Vol. III. Romans, Canon Gifford; Corinthians, Canon Evans and Mr. Waite, Vicar of Northam; Galatians, by the Dean of Chester; Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Thessalonians, and Philemon, by the late Dean Jeremie, Canon Westcott, and the Bishop of Derry; Pastoral Epistles, by the Bishop of London; Hebrews, by Dr. Kay. Vol. IV. Epistle of St. James, by the Dean of Rochester; Epistles of St. John, by the Bishop of Derry, and St. Peter, and St. Jude, by Prof. Lightfoot and Mr. Lumby; Revelation of St. John, by Dr. Lee, Archdeacon of Dublin.

THE Paris International Literary Congress will hold its meetings from the 6th to the 15th of June. The following programme has been settled for discussion in the public session:—June 6. Literary copyright; its legal position. Should literary property be treated like all other property, or managed by special laws? June 8. On the republication, translation, and preparation of literary works. Of literary copyright, and the insufficiency of diplomatic treaties for its protection, &c. Scheme for an international literary treaty, by which the copyright of all authors shall be as secure in foreign countries as in their own. June 11. The position of authors in the present time. Literary societies. Plan for the improvement of the condition of authors in dif-

ferent countries. Arrangements for the future. June 15. Reading before the Congress the resolutions arrived at.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. G. Waring, M.A., Cambridge and Oxford, the editor, together with Dr. Bosworth, of the Wy-cliffite Bible, in 1865. The deceased possessed a rare knowledge of Eastern and Western languages, and was well read in theology and history. His reviews of books have always been remarkably clear and thorough. It is a pity that the great variety of his studies should have prevented him from concentrating himself upon one subject.

'BROTHER GABRIEL' is the title of a new novel from the pen of Miss M. Betham-Edwards, the authoress of 'Kitty,' 'Bridget,' &c., which will be shortly published by Messrs. Hurst & Blackett.

COUNT WOLF BANDISSEN, who assisted Tieck and Schlegel in their great translation of Shakspeare, died at Dresden on the 4th inst. in his 90th year. He was the author of the standard German version of Molière.

ON May 1st will be published the first number of the *Kentish Magazine*, a monthly literary miscellany for the country.

AN annotated edition of Milton's 'Comus,' with a full glossary, is, we understand, about to be published by Mr. B. Montgomerie Ranking and Mr. D. F. Ranking. It will contain an introductory essay on Masques generally, and one on the history and origin of 'Comus,' in which the authors attempt to prove, what has often been asserted, the immediate influence upon the poem of Fletcher's 'Faithful Shepherdess' and Peele's 'Old Wives' Tale.'

THE New York *Publishers' Weekly* announces, among other books, works on 'The Armies of Asia and Europe,' in which the author gives the result of his observations during a military tour round the world, and on 'The Military Policy of the United States,' by General Upton, the 'Life of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston,' by William P. Johnston; 'The American Episcopate,' by the Rev. Dr. Batterson, sketches of the lives of the most prominent bishops from the foundation of the American Episcopal Church to the present day, and a third edition of Lewis R. Hammersley's 'Records of Living Officers of the U.S. Navy' will be ready early next month. The latter work has been carefully revised, with numerous important additions; it is compiled from official sources.

THE *République Française* has conferred a peerage upon Mr. Chamberlain, M.P., having, in its issue of Thursday, made him, under the excellent title of "Lord Chamberlain," "support the amendment."

THE lectures for ladies conducted by the staff of King's College, in the Vestry Hall, Kensington, have been numerously attended. The number of entries during the first term, which is just closed, amounts to more than 600. The subjects of the lectures were Scripture and Church History, Logic and Moral Philosophy, Ancient and Modern History, Latin, English, French, and German Languages and Literature, and Botany; to these will be added next term Mathematics, Geology, and Physical Geography, Astronomy, Greek (elementary), Latin (advanced), Harmony, and Experimental Physics (the subject being

the theory of sound in its relation to music). The classes will continue to meet in the Vestry Hall, Kensington, till October; then it is proposed to obtain a building in the same neighbourhood, where the work will be carried on more systematically.

MRS. SWAIN, the widow of Mr. Charles Swain, the Manchester poet, died on Sunday last at her house, Prestwick Park, Manchester.

WITH the present year a new monthly journal began to appear at St. Petersburg, under the title of *Istoricheskaya Biblioteka*, or Historical Library. Three numbers have appeared up to the present time. Among the principal articles they contain are, an historical essay on the Principedom of Moscow, by Polejaef; a sketch of life in past times, by Golubef, founded on historical documents; a couple of historical *bulinui* or popular metrical romances; and a "novel-chronicle" of the seventeenth century, by the historian Solovief, called 'The Captain of the Grenadier Company' The period of the novel is that of the Regency of Bipun, one of the most remarkable and dramatic in Russian history.

OUR Lisbon Correspondent writes:—

"The Academy of Sciences has consented to publish and print at their press the translation of 'Hamlet' made by one of their members, Senhor Bulhaõ Pato, the well-known poet. The fact of its being published by the Academy is a guarantee that the work will be well printed and revised. The National Printing Office has completed the impression of the Portuguese Cancioneiro, known as the Vatican collection, from the original being preserved in that library. It appears that Dr. Francisco Ferraz de Macedo, a member of the Medical School of Rio de Janeiro, has furnished the funds for this undertaking. The volume will consist of about 300 pages. The text is the ancient one of Halle, and is accompanied by a glossary and introduction respecting the Portuguese troubadours and cancioneiros."

MR. SKEAT has undertaken to edit for the Early English Text Society a photolithographic facsimile of the unique MS. of our earliest Anglo-Saxon poem, 'Beowulf.' The edition will contain a transliteration of the original, with collations of the best editions of it, a translation into modern English, notes, glossary, and introduction. One of our most important publishing bodies has lately entrusted Mr. Skeat with the preparation of a new quarto Etymological English Lexicon, from the collections that he has for many years been making for this purpose.

PROF. DANIEL SANDERS announces, through the *Deutsche Monatsblatt*, that he is collecting materials for an 'Ergänzungs-Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache.' He observes that it is impossible to create a great national work, as a really complete dictionary of the language would be, unless the co-operation of the nation can be secured. He, therefore, requests the public to communicate to him any errors, lapses, insufficient definitions, or other flaws which they may have remarked in his great 'Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache.'

MR. VIGFUSSON's edition of the 'Sturlunga Saga,' with an elaborate preface, is now ready for publication. He is preparing for the Delegates of the Clarendon Press an Icelandic reader.

THE inventive genius of a Western speculator has been led to commemorate the International Exhibition of 1876 by means of a literary speculation, from which he hopes

to make much money. He has prepared a paper containing the autograph signatures of all the members of the Government, of Congress, and of the Judges of the Supreme Court. He has even succeeded in getting an Act passed expressly to authorize the Secretary of State to affix the seal of the United States to the document. Now that the document is ready, he is trying to get up a grand ceremonial on the occasion of presenting it to the Government, and thereby helping to advertise the sale of the fac-similes, which he is prepared to supply in unlimited quantities.

MR. HENRY STEVENS has written and printed in a very neat fashion a history of the Caxton Memorial Bible, which was printed and bound in twelve hours. Some copies have been prepared on thin paper, to be slipped into copies of the Memorial Bible.

THERE are two candidates for the new chair of Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge: Mr. Lumby, Fellow of St. Catharine's College, and Mr. Skeat, late Fellow of Christ's.

SCIENCE

The Ecclesiastical Calendar: its Theory and Construction. By Samuel Butcher, D.D., late Bishop of Meath. (Dublin, Hodges, Foster & Figgis.)

THIS important work was completed (we are informed in the Preface) a few months before the learned author's lamented death the year before last, and is edited by his sons, who state that it "is the fruit of spare hours snatched from the last and busiest years of a laborious life." On this it may be remarked that the said spare hours must have been also tolerably laborious, and that the lamented writer must have worked *con amore* at a subject which would not be considered by many at all attractive. The ecclesiastical calendar is, indeed, "a mighty maze," though, as the Bishop shows us, it is "not without a plan," and its mazes may be threaded by those possessed of a sufficient amount of patience. Of course the complication arises entirely from the fact that from the beginning of the Christian Church the time of keeping Easter (on which most of the other ecclesiastical anniversaries depend) was guided by reference to the lunar chronology of the Jewish Passover. As the annual festival of Easter, therefore, was to be in a particular part of a lunation, which is not commensurable with a year, a most elaborate and artificial system has been formed to fix its determination for forthcoming centuries. A very important part in the arrangement was borne by the Golden Number of the Metonic Cycle. This originated with one Meton (of whom little else is known), who discovered that 235 lunations were almost exactly equal to nineteen years. The approximation is, indeed, very close, since a lunation is 29.530589 days, 235 of which are 6939.688 days, whilst nineteen Julian years are 6939.75 days, and nineteen Gregorian years are 6939.6075 days. The cycle commenced to be used by the Athenians B.C. 432, which, however, was reckoned as year VII. of the Cycle, perhaps because in B.C. 438 the summer solstice coincided with new moon. So B.C. 1 corresponded to year I., and A.D. 1 to year II., of the Cycle.

In interpreting the ecclesiastical rule for finding Easter it is necessary to remember that

the expression "Full Moon" does not mean the real full moon, but the fourteenth day of the lunation, the first day or nominal new moon of which is found by a series of artificial rules framed for the purpose of keeping up as nearly as possible the correspondence between lunar and solar chronology. Nor would it be possible to substitute for this the real astronomical full moon, since the consequence would be, from this happening at different local times in different parts of the earth, that Easter in any year would often be commemorated on different days, even at places very near to each other. Thus, to use the Bishop's words,—

"Suppose Easter to be determined by the true Full Moon, and that on a *Saturday* evening at Westminster Abbey the Paschal Full Moon happens at four seconds before midnight; then, at St. Paul's [it will happen three seconds after midnight on *Sunday* morning. The result will be that at the Abbey this Sunday will be Easter Day; while at St. Paul's, the Paschal Full Moon falling on this Sunday, the next Sunday will be Easter Day."

It is clear, therefore, that, in any case, to secure uniformity in keeping Easter, some artificial meaning must be given to the Full Moon; and intricate as are the calculations which have been gone through to give the established interpretation to the Calendar Full Moon some such are unavoidable from the nature of the case whilst the existing rule for keeping Easter is maintained. But as this technical meaning of the expression "Full Moon" in the Prayer Book is not generally understood, and this has several times led to what appears to be an inconsistency between the rule for observing Easter and the actual time of its observance, Dr. Butcher recommends the addition of an explanatory note in such terms as these:—

"*Note*.—That the moon referred to in this Rule is not the actual moon of the heavens, but the moon of the Ecclesiastical Calendar, which is to be taken as full in its fourteenth day, the day of the Ecclesiastical New Moon being counted as the first day of the Moon."

Two years ago an apparent discrepancy of the kind occurred (we called attention to it in a paragraph in the *Athenæum* of February 26, 1876, on 'The Date of Easter'), the Moon being full about eight o'clock in the evening of April 8th at Greenwich; but the Calendar Full Moon not taking place till the day after, Easter—according to the Prayer Book rule—fell on April 16th.

One cannot help recurring here to the proposal which has been made to abrogate the rule itself and substitute a more simple one, which would obviate the necessity of all these cumbersome tables and calculations, and secure the great advantage of having the celebration of Easter (and the anniversaries which depend upon it) always at the same time of the year, with only the variation of a few days in order to keep the actual Easter Day always on a Sunday. A few years since we noticed two pamphlets on Easter-tide then published (in 1872 and 1873) by the Rev. J. Newland Smith, strongly advocating this alteration, the benefits of which, if practicable, are obvious. In the second of these, Mr. Smith proposed the very simple but sufficient rule—"The second Sunday in April shall be Easter Sunday." As there is every reason to believe that the real day of the Resurrection was the 9th of April, A.D. 30, this would be keeping it at

a time as nearly identical with the true date of the event commemorated as is consistent with the Nicæan rule for observing it always on a Sunday, in opposition to the Quarto-deciman practice which had previously prevailed in several of the Christian Churches. It is usually supposed that the rule now in use for determining Easter by the luni-solar chronology was also established by the famous Bithynian Council. This, however, does not appear to have been the case, and some uncertainty remains as to how much they did decide, the only extant expression being the order in the Encyclical Epistle addressed to the Churches of Alexandria, Libya, and the Pentapolis, to "conform to the Romans and to us, and to all who have kept the Pascha with us." This direction about the Sunday after the Full Moon, if that happens on a Sunday, arose from the desire to avoid ever keeping the Christian feast on the same day as the Jews were keeping their Passover feast; as the Emperor Constantine remarked, it was a thing wholly unworthy of the Christians to follow the usage of the Jews (who were presumed to be able to do nothing right)—*μηδὲν ἔστω ἡμῖν κοινὸν μετὰ τοῦ ἐχθίστου τῶν Ἰουδαίων ὄχλου*. Much difference of usage and disputing still occurred through the defective knowledge of astronomical epochs till the time of the Gregorian reformation of the Calendar in the sixteenth century, in which the assistance of the Jesuit Clavius was all important to the Pope, Gregory XIII. That able writer states that a change to a more simple rule for observing Easter was urged in his own time; but he defends the traditional usage on the ground that it was the immemorial practice of the Church, sanctioned by popes and councils from the earliest times. Bishop Butcher says,—

"Such a change now is obviously impossible. The Roman Church would certainly not consent to it, and a schism in Christendom on a question so vitally affecting the practical affairs of civil life would be in the highest degree inconvenient. The present practice is regulated by Rules and Tables which, however difficult and troublesome to ascertain and calculate at first, are now very easily applied."

Whether the difficulties of making such a beneficial change, in this country at least, are insuperable, may, we think, admit of question. Be it remembered that, so long as the Eastern churches adhere to the old Julian style of the Calendar, there can be no uniformity in the time of keeping Easter, although the rule, supposed to have the authority of Nicæa, and of which the original object was to secure such uniformity, is generally maintained.

Dr. Butcher informs us that it was not his purpose in this volume to write a complete treatise on the Ecclesiastical Calendar; but there can be no question that he has in it left the world as a legacy a very able and learned work on the subject; the intricacy of which is sufficiently illustrated by the fact that his book upon it consists of no less than 270 quarto pages.

PREJEVALSKY'S EXPLORATIONS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

COL. PREJEVALSKY'S exploration of the lower course of the Tarim river, Lake Lob, and the Altyn-tag mountains ranks among the most important geographical feats of the present century, and Dr. Petermann is entitled to our best thanks for having so promptly issued the exceedingly interesting report and maps illustrative of the

journey. The Colonel's observations have fixed the position of Lake Lob, a most important and vital point in tracing the communications between Eastern and Western Asia from the earliest times; he has corrected the course of the Tarim River, and brought to light the existence of the Altyn-tag range—a mighty range, which, if not to be identified with the true Kuen-Lun, at all events usurps the hitherto received functions of the latter as the extreme northern escarpment of the Tibetan plateau. The transformation which the new positions assigned to the various places in the Tarim basin have occasioned in the map of Central Asia is remarkable, and fresh light is thrown on the geography of the Chinese and of Ptolemy, the labours of the Jesuits, and the numerous mediæval journeys across Asia. Another feature of interest in Col. Prejevalsky's explorations lies in his collections and observations on natural history, while the entire enterprise deserves praise for the economy with which it has been carried out. It was a most happy circumstance, as he points out, that he undertook his journey when he did. A year previously, Yakub-beg had barely extended his rule to the Tian-shan, and a journey beyond would have been an impossibility, and now the blighting hand of the Chinese will have closed every avenue of exploration within their reach.

Col. Prejevalsky and party started from Kuldja on the 12th August, 1876, with twenty-four camels, four horses, and a good supply of firearms. Their way lay up the valley of the Ili river, and after that up the valley of the Kunges, near which, in a deserted station house, the Colonel enjoyed his last bath before entering on the unknown discomforts and perils before him. The Narat mountains, between the Zanna and Yulduz rivers, were crossed at their eastern end, at a point 9,800 feet high. The Yulduz plateau proved to be rich in birds and mammalia, and there was plenty of scope for hunting, in the course of which two fine specimens of the *Ovis Poli* were shot, and the same number of *Cervus Maral*. As they approached the southern side of the Tian-shan range, the proximity of the deserts showed its influence in the deficiency of rain and the extreme poverty of the vegetation—a feature which Prejevalsky thinks is probably to be found along the entire southern face of the chain.

On arriving at Chara-moto, the Russians were met by six Mussulmans sent by the governor of Korla, who informed them that Yakub-beg had dispatched a messenger to stop their further advance. This gave Prejevalsky an opportunity of studying the Fauna in the neighbourhood of Chaidugol, until permission for his journey to Korla was received. Korla is sixty versts from Chara-moto, and here, under the name of friendship, the Russians were treated as spies. The town, with its surrounding villages, contains about six thousand inhabitants. Here also they were provided with a Russian guide or interpreter sent by Yakub-beg, who soon turned out to be a mere spy, but whose suspicions were gradually quieted by the Russians. In order to reach Lob-Nor the travellers had to journey southward into the valley of the Tarim, which is eighty-six versts from Korla. They crossed the Tarim at its confluence with the Ugen-daria (the lower course of the Musart-nyn-su), where it is 300 or 350 feet wide, and at least 20 feet deep. It is known among the natives as the Yarkend-Tarim or Yarkend-daria, and here reaches its northernmost point, its subsequent course being first south-east and then south. Along the banks of the river the vegetation is rather richer, but in other parts the desert is the very poorest and most desolate ever seen by Col. Prejevalsky. His lists of mammalia and birds, though not extensive, are interesting.

The inhabitants Prejevalsky considers to be of Aryan stock, but their religion, as well as that of the inhabitants of the Lake Lob district, is Mohammedanism. Their manners and characteristics, though rude, are of considerable interest, and are described at length. After having followed the course of the Tarim for some distance, the travellers deviated from the river, and made

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direct for Charchalyk, a village tenanted partly by exiles from Khotan. Three hundred versts to the south-west of Charchalyk is Cherchen (probably the Charchan of Marco Polo); south-west of that lies the oasis of Nai (the ancient Ni-jiang of the Chinese itineraries?), and beyond lie Keria, Chiria, and Khotan. Gold is found in the mountains not far from Keria, and near to the source of the Cherchen-daria. The yearly yield is said to be sixty puds, which all goes to Yakub-beg. Near Charchalyk are the ruins of an ancient town, called Ottogush-shari, and on the road to Cherchen and near Lake Lob are others. Col. Prejevalsky, his companion Eklon, and two guides made a hunting excursion into the Altyn-tag mountains. These mountains are of considerable height, and, according to the positive assurance of the natives, stretch without a break to the south-west up as far as Khotan. Eastward the Russian explorer examined the range for 300 versts beyond Charchalyk; its eastern limit is unknown to the Lob-Nor people. Prejevalsky has not a doubt that this range forms the northern edge of the Tibetan plateau, and he calculates that it rises to a height of between 12,000 and 13,000 feet. His hunter informed him that before the Dungan rebellion the Kalmucks made use of a path leading across the plateau to Tibet, and that in this journey they passed two ranges south of the Altyn-tag, the second (Chamen-tag) of enormous height and covered with perpetual snow. Westwards the three mountain chains unite.

The Fauna on the southern side of the Altyn-tag is richer than on the northern, and ten mammals are found on the Tibetan side which do not occur in the Tarim basin, e.g., *Pseudois Nahoar*, *Poephagus grunniens*, *Antelope Hodgsoni*. There are two roads in these mountains, one to Lhasa and the other to Sachau, but both are abandoned. Prejevalsky's description of the wild camel, two skins of which he managed to secure, is most exhaustive and interesting. He is of opinion that they were born of a wild stock.

Lake Lob was reached in the early days of February. Its shape is elliptical, its utmost breadth about 20 versts, and its length 90 or 100 versts, its major axis lying north-east and south-west. It was formerly, according to native account, much deeper, but since so much water has been drawn off from the Tarim for irrigation, it has become overgrown with reeds. The waters of Lob-Nor are sweet, but it is surrounded by salt marshes. The Tarim flows first into a smaller lake, called Kara-buran, which under the influence of strong north-east winds often overflows its banks.

In ornithology the Tarim basin plays an important part, as it forms a sort of "half-way house" or resting-place for birds of passage from China to Siberia, and from the Himalayas to the Tian-shan. The inhabitants around Lake Lob live in eleven villages, and number about three hundred in all. They call themselves Kara-kurtchin, are Mohammedans by religion, and live by fishing. Prejevalsky devotes a good deal of space to their rites and customs, but they are exceedingly uncivilized. He also describes the ornithology of the region in detail. At the close of March the Russians set out on their return journey, and at the beginning of July re-entered Kuldja.

A METALLIC VOLTAIC CELL.

SOMETHING new in practical science was made known at a meeting of the Royal Society lately in the reading of a paper 'On Contact Theory of Voltaic Action,' by Profs. Ayrton and Perry, of the Engineering College, Tokio, Japan, namely, a description of a voltaic cell composed entirely of metal. Its importance may be judged of from the following particulars communicated by the authors. "It may be known," they state, "that when rods of zinc and copper are placed in mercury and connected with an electrometer no charge is observed. If known, this may have been regarded as a crucial test of the truth of the common theory of compound metallic circuits. Whether the zinc and copper are in contact outside the mercury or not,

the amalgamation of the zinc appears to proceed at the same rate. Now, it seemed to us that in this case the impurities and great conductivity of the zinc, with the great liquidity of the amalgam, and the close proximity of foreign particles to pure metal, caused the amalgamation to be produced by local action alone, so that the supply of available chemical energy for the production of a current from the zinc to the copper was exceedingly small; and we have no doubt that at low enough temperatures, when the amalgam loses its liquidity, such an arrangement becomes a simple voltaic cell. It was necessary for us to use instead of zinc a metal of which the amalgam is nearly solid at ordinary temperatures. On inquiry we found that magnesium was such a metal, and on the first trial we obtained a result corroborative of the above theory. Strips of platinum and magnesium, metallically attached to the electrodes of the electrometer, were dipped into mercury, which was, perhaps, slightly impure from the presence of other metals, but which had previously been washed with distilled water, and then well dried. There was a sudden large deflection, the amount of which fluctuated very much afterwards, but which was always considerable, and on the same side of the zero. On successive reversals of the electrometer key, the deflections to right and left of zero were found to be nearly equal to one another. In a short time there seemed to be an increased steadiness in the amount of deflection. When the platinum and magnesium were short-circuited for some minutes, the deflection had decidedly increased in amount on being again insulated, and this occurred after every short-circuiting. To determine the electromotive force of the arrangement, strips of platinum and magnesium, scraped very clean, were dipped into pure mercury which had previously been washed with distilled water, and well dried. The maximum electromotive force obtained was 1.56 volts,—that is, about one and a half times the electromotive force of a Daniell's cell, the platinum corresponding with the copper plate in the Daniell's cell. It may be possible, by mechanical or other means, or by using another metal than magnesium, to give constancy to this arrangement, and, as its internal resistance is extremely small, the cell may be of great practical use for the production of powerful currents. It may be remarked that, as an amalgam may be easily separated into its compartments by distillation, such a cell, by suitable arrangements, can be kept in action for an indefinite time. We have examined a circuit composed of the metals platinum, tin, and lead, and the coil of a galvanometer. On raising the temperature of the tin gradually we found that there was a current, and that it gradually increased. Rapid changes in the current were observable at the melting point of the tin, and there seemed to be a small electromotive force independent of thermo-electric effects. When the platinum and lead strips were connected with the electrometer, the deflections were found to be too small for decided conclusions to be drawn. We shall proceed, when time allows us, with the investigation of metallic voltaic cells."

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—April 4.—Sir J. Hooker, President, in the chair.—The following papers were read: 'On the Development of the Parasitic Isopoda,' by Mr. J. F. Bullar, 'On the Determination of the Constants of the Cup Anemometer,' by the Rev. Dr. Robinson, 'On the Action of Ozone on the Nuclei,' by Mr. C. Tomlinson, and 'Notes on Physical Geology, No. IV. A Geological Proof that the Changes of Climate in Past Times were not due to Changes in the Position of the Pole, with an attempt to assign a Minor Limit to the Duration of Geological Time,' by the Rev. Dr. Houghton.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—April 8.—Sir R. Alcock, President, in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected Fellows: Major R. O. Jones, Rev. G. C. White, Messrs. A. C. Bailie, A. J. G. Bain, G. W. Field, N. T. Foster, J. L. Haddan, J. H. Hadwen, R. T. Jones, W. Kirby, J. Sivewright, R. P. Spice, R. E. Welby, D. Whalley, Rev. G. C. White,

and S. H. Williams. The papers read, were 'Travels in Western China and on the Eastern Borders of Tibet,' by Capt. W. Gill, and 'The United States' Topographical Survey of New Mexico,' by Mr. T. W. Goad.

GEOLOGICAL.—April 3.—H. C. Sorby, Esq., President, in the chair.—Rev. A. A. Harland and Mr. T. W. Shore were elected Fellows.—The following communications were read: 'On an Unconformable Break at the Base of the Cambrian Rocks, near Llanberis,' by Mr. G. Maw, 'On the so-called Greenstones of Central and Eastern Cornwall,' by Mr. J. A. Phillips, and 'On the Recession of the Falls of St. Anthony,' by Mr. N. H. Winchell.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—April 4.—F. Ouvry, Esq., President, in the chair.—The Report of the Auditors for the year 1877 was read by Mr. J. Clarke, and a vote of thanks was passed to them for their trouble, and to the Treasurer for his good and faithful services.—Mr. W. Myers was admitted a Fellow.—Mr. Smith exhibited an antique gem set in a gold brooch of the thirteenth century. Around the gem was the inscription, AMOR VINCIT FORTITUDINEM.—Major Cooper exhibited two bronze seals inscribed respectively S. Elie Londoniarum Clici and S. Roberti de Castro Cl.—Mr. J. A. S. Bailey exhibited a bronze celt found at Billericay, Essex, accompanied with notes of previous discoveries in the same locality.—The Rev. W. Greenwell exhibited, through the Director, and by permission of the Dean and Chapter of Durham, the portable altar of St. Cuthbert. This altar has been fully described and figured in Mr. J. Raine's work on Saint Cuthbert's Tomb and Remains.—The Rev. J. Beck, Local Secretary for Sussex, exhibited a small figure of the Saviour, copper-gilt, from a crucifix, date early thirteenth century.—Dr. C. S. Percival completed his account of the muniments of Sir John Lawson, of Burgh.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—April 3.—Mr. H. Syer Cuming in the chair.—Mr. Luxmore exhibited a large series of Spanish keys of sixteenth-century date, in beautiful preservation, and presenting many peculiarities in their designs which were very artistic. An animated discussion ensued, and Mr. Lambert and Mr. R. S. Ferguson described many of their peculiarities.—Mr. L. Brock exhibited a large collection of ancient views and etchings of Spanish antiquities in illustration of one of the papers.—Mr. T. Morgan described a collection of rare silver denarii and copper Roman coins, over 150 in number, which he had brought from Spain many years ago, and Mr. Grueber called attention to the most rare examples.—Mr. Glaskett exhibited some sketches of the ancient caverns of Hastings and St. Leonards.—The first paper was by Mr. T. Morgan, who traced the course of his recent Spanish tour, and briefly noted the early and mediæval history of the country. He then described the important Roman remains of Italica, and particularly those of the amphitheatre, a building of large dimensions, capable of containing 25,000 persons. It bears indications of an extended period for its construction, probably from the time of Augustus to Hadrian. There are ten principal approaches, and the extreme length of the elliptic plan is 514 feet by 414. The massive walls are of concrete, with some arches of tile, but the stone facing is almost destroyed, the building having been greatly demolished in 1711, and recently excavated. In the discussion which ensued, Mr. Grover compared the enormous area with the size of the Albert Hall, which could be readily placed within the open area only of the amphitheatre. He compared its size with the humble structures of Roman date in Britain, which were passed in review; and he noted the use of organs worked by water power by the Romans during the performances.—The second paper was by Mr. Compton, who traced some peculiarities in old leases granted by the bishops of Hereford, a red rose being required on renewal of leases.—Mr. G. R. Wright detailed the progress of the arrange-

- Mus. Institute of British Architects, 8.—'Chemical Disadvantage of Sulphur Joints in Masonry,' Dr. A. Wright; 'The Vase of Questions of Oak or Chestnut in Old Roofs,' Mr. T. Blashill.
 United Service Institution, 83.—'Steam-Power versus Sail-Power for Ships of War,' Capt. P. H. Colomb.
 Horticultural, 1.—'Election of Fellows.'
 Committee, 1.—'Debate of Sovereign and Quasi-Sovereign States,' Mr. Bryce Clarke.
 Colonial Institute, 8.
 Zoological, 8.—'Observations upon the Uranidae, a Family of Lepidopterous Insects, with a Synopsis of the Family and a Monograph of *Coronilla*, one of the Genera of which it is Composed,' Prof. J. O. Westwood; 'Contributions to the Ornithology of the Philippines No. VIII, Luzon Birds in the Museum of Darmstadt,' Marquis of Tweeddale; 'Further Notes on the Stridulating Organ of *Palinurus vulgaris*,' Mr. T. J. Parker; 'New Species of Finch from the Fejee Islands,' Dr. O. Finch.
 Civil Engineers, 8.
 Society of Arts, 8.
 Meteorological, 7.—'Discussion on Waterpots and Globular Lighting,' Application of Harmonic Analysis to the Reduction of Meteorological Observations, and on the General Methods of Meteorology, Hon. R. Abercromby; 'Some Peculiarities in the Migration of Birds in the Autumn and Winter of 1877-78,' Mr. J. Cordesau.
 Geological, 8.—'Geological Results of the Polar Expedition under Admiral Sir G. Nares, Capt. H. W. Feilden and Mr. C. E. De Bance'; 'Palaeontological Results of the Polar Expedition under Admiral Sir G. Nares, Capt. H. W. Feilden and Mr. R. Etheridge'; 'Contemporaneous Appearance of the Tensdale Whin Shale,' Mr. C. T. Clough.
 Literature, 8.—'Historical Outlines of the Buddhist Faith,' Sir P. Colquhoun.
 British Archaeological Association, 8.—'Good Friday Buns,' Mr. H. Syer Cuming; 'Roman Remains at Canterbury recently Discovered,' Mr. J. Brent.
 Turner Chemical, 8.—'Terpin and Terpinol,' Dr. W. A. Tilden; 'Poisonous Principle of *Crochile endocrochile*,' Mr. A. Bower; 'Temperature at which a few of the Alkaloids sublime, as determined by an improved Method,' Mr. A. W. Blyth.
 Linnean, 8.—'Geographical Distribution of the Gulls and Terns (Laridae),' Mr. H. Saunders; 'Remarks on Root Growth,' Dr. M. Masters; 'Action of Limpets (Patella) in Sinking Pits in and Abrading the Surface of the Chalk at Jorvis,' Mr. J. H. Ewbank; 'Fertilisation of *Argemone creola*,' Mr. R. I. Lynch.

Science Gossip.

ONE of the medals of the Royal Geographical Society will, it is supposed, be awarded to Capt. H. Trotter and the other to Baron F. von Richtshofen for his geographical achievements, and more especially his elaborate work on China.

In preparing the grave for the reception of the late Sir Gilbert Scott's remains, interred in Westminster Abbey last Saturday, the red virgin sand of Thorney Island was laid bare, with the wave mark of the Thames plainly visible on it. It is said that this has hardly ever been observed before in the nave of the Abbey, where almost every foot of ground bears traces of the displacing of the soil by previous intrusions.

THE voluminous work entitled 'Conchologia Iconica,' commenced by the late Mr. Lovell Reeve, F.L.S., in 1843, and continued by Mr. G. B. Sowerby, F.L.S., will, we hear, be completed in the course of the current month. The work thus brought to a conclusion consists of twenty large quarto volumes with upwards of 2,700 coloured plates, and comprising figures and descriptions of probably not less than 27,000 distinct species of shells. Messrs. L. Reeve & Co. are the publishers.

M. SOLEIL, the well-known optician, and the inventor of an excellent saccharometer, is dead. Soleil was in his eightieth year. For a long period he had retired to his seat at St. Gratien, upon the borders of the Lake of Enghien. All the beautiful apparatus used by Lord Brougham for his investigations on light was manufactured and largely devised by M. Soleil. When his lordship brought his discoveries under the notice of the Académie the table before him was covered with arrangements of knife edges for producing the refraction of the luminous rays. Lord Brougham, while preparing an experiment, was pierced in the corner of his eye by one of these knife edges. Blood flowed freely from the cut, and for a period the lecture was suspended. M. Arago solicited the indulgence of the audience, as Lord Brougham was suffering from "coup de Soleil."

THE Manchester Field-Naturalists and Archaeologists' Society have arranged excursions for the following Saturdays: April 27, May 11, May 25, June 13 (on which day it is proposed to begin a three or four days' trip to Warwick, Stratford, Kenilworth, and Leamington), and June 22. The spring Soirée of the Society took place yesterday (Friday).

MESSRS. SAMPSON LOW & Co. will publish shortly an illustrated and enlarged edition of Mr. Heath's 'Fern Paradise.' The illustrations will comprise a pictorial title-page, eight wood engravings of scenery by Birket Foster, and a number of

plates drawn on wood (after design of the author), showing full figures of the British ferns grouped according to genera.

DR. JULIUS SCHMIDT's great chart of the Moon, the fruit of so many years' laborious and careful study of the lunar surface at the Athens Observatory, has been recently engraved at the expense of the Prussian Government, and will very shortly be published.

It is in contemplation to erect a monument at Paris to the late eminent astronomer, M. Le Verrier, a statue, either in bronze or marble, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Observatory. A committee has been formed for this purpose, under the presidency of M. Fizeau, President of the Academy of Sciences; and more than 6,000 francs (we are informed by the *Bulletin Hebdomadaire* of the Association Scientifique de France) has already been subscribed.

THE *Journal* of the Scottish Meteorological Society for February has been sent to us. In addition to several contributions of much interest on meteorology and its application, tables for the year ending the 31st December, 1876, are given.

ANOTHER small planet (No. 186) is announced from the Paris Observatory, discovered by M. Prosper Henry on the 6th inst.

M. RAOUL PICTET, in the *Annales de Chemie* for February, has an important memoir, 'Sur la Liquefaction de l'Oxygène, la Liquefaction et la Solidification de l'Hydrogène, et sur les Théories des Changements d'État des Corps.'

HERR KARL BAEDEKER, of Leipzig, intends to publish, about the end of the present month, a new English 'Handbook for London,' based on the latest German edition of the same work, but specially recast for the use of English and American travellers. The editor expresses his gratitude to a number of English friends, and particularly to the Rev. R. Gwynne, Dr. G. Nicholas, and Mr. G. Dodd, for the valuable suggestions they have contributed.

THE receipts of the International Association at Brussels amount now to 17,489l., of which 14,000l. were granted by public bodies and societies in Belgium, and only 1,400l. forwarded from abroad. The Budget Committee of the German Parliament has declined to recommend a grant of 5,000l. to the German African Association.

FINE ARTS

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS, 9, Conduit Street, Regent Street.—THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN, from Nine till Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. THOS. ROBERTS, Sec.

DUDLEY GALLERY, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—General Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings.—THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.; Fictorial Notes, 4d. ROBERT F. MCNAIR, Sec.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES BY ARTISTS OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOLS IS NOW OPEN at Thomas McLean's Gallery, 7, Haymarket.—Admission, including Catalogue, 1s.

NOW OPEN.—MESSRS. GOUPIU & COMPANY'S ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF HIGH-CLASS CONTINENTAL PICTURES, containing Examples by the leading Artists of the French, Spanish, Italian, and Dutch Schools, at their Fine-Art Galleries, 25, Bedford Street, Covent Garden.—Admission, 1s., including Catalogue.

THE SUFFOLK STREET GALLERIES.—GRAND EXHIBITION OF PICTURES BY THE OLD MASTERS AND DECEASED BRITISH ARTISTS, including the Norwich School, and 500 PORTRAITS.—Daily from Nine a.m. till Six p.m.—Admission, 1s.

DORR'S GREAT WORKS, 'THE BRAZEN SERPENT,' 'CHRIST LEAVING THE PRETORIUM,' and 'CHRIST ENTERING JERUSALEM' (the latter just completed, each 8½ by 11 feet), 'Dream of Plutarch's Wife,' 'Soldiers of the Cross,' 'Night of the Crucifixion,' 'House of Calaphas,' &c., at the DORR GALLERY, 38, New Bond Street. Daily, Ten to Six.—1s.

A NEW PICTURE BY MR. ROSSETTI.

WHEN reviewing some pictures by Mr. D. G. Rossetti about this time last year, we described one painted for Mr. William Graham, and the subject of which is taken from the artist's own poem, entitled, 'The Blessed Damozel.' Mr. Rossetti has now added beneath this picture a predella developing its conception. In the main painting, as our readers may remember, the beati-fied lady is seen leaning from the golden parapet of the Eden of re-united love, while around her

are groups of lovers who meet once more in their new world of undying bliss. The predella completes the motive by showing the bereaved lover of the "Blessed Damozel" himself. He is still on earth, lying with his hands clasped above his head and looking upwards, as she looks downwards in her vigil for his coming. The landscape around him, channelled by a running stream, on the brink of which he lies, is tinged by autumn, and the reddened leaves fall thickly. The addition of this predella will be seen, even in description, to enhance the ideal drama, so to speak, of the subject represented. As the tone of the main picture is cerulean, varied with bright greens and lavish rose tints, so the predella affords the contrast of a figure clad in black and grey drapery amid the dying hues of the year.

Of new pictures of some size and nearing completion which Mr. Rossetti has in hand, we hope to speak in due course.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

It was not unreasonable to expect that the Society of British Artists, on leaving Suffolk Street and taking possession of new galleries, would attempt to inaugurate their fresh career with an exhibition which could be legitimately commended. With this hope we commenced our examination of the pictures. Taking the order of the catalogue, the first work on the line arrives at represents what is intended for the interior of a labourer's cottage, with the labourer and his wife, both well advanced in years, and a girl, who may possibly be the clergyman's daughter, coming in with a basket in her hand; a subject of the feeblest conventionality, but which, in the hands of modest mediocrity, might be sufficiently innocuous. In the present instance, all the possible and ordinary claptrap is put prominently forward; there is the family Bible the man is supposed to have just been reading; this supplies piety. Pathos is got out of a crutch and a pot of flowers, and charity from the basket of provender. When we come to the figures we must confess to some uncertainty: has the painter worked with his tongue in his cheek, or in simple innocence of heart? For that pious labourer is such a palpable impostor. He might almost have served for the first prize on the celebrated occasion when our noble Premier, laying aside the cares of state, assumed the feudal character of county magnate, and presented a guinea to the labourer who had attained patriarchal age and brought up a family on some infinitesimal number of weekly shillings: a humorous scene, which the author of 'Coningsby' must have been fully alive to,—he, and perhaps the patriarch, very likely an old humbug, who may have made a better thing by the judicious display of his piety than the less wily poacher with his gins, his traps, and his nets. Respecting the picture from which we have strayed, we may briefly say that the treatment of the subject is such as to render charity odious and religion contemptible, and the execution is on a par with the conception. This naturally brought us to a pause, and suggested the desirability of a general glance at the exhibition; the result showed that, with very few exceptions, the mass of the pictures was on a level with the one we have noticed; the small number of works which display study and intelligence are swamped in the flood of hopeless mediocrity, so that there is decidedly no advance—distinctly the contrary, and the deterioration in relation to other exhibitions is also evident. Considering the encouragement the Society has received, and the promise of its earlier years, it seems a pity for it to be utterly extinguished, which, unless there is some change made, must be the speedy result. That some desire has been shown to render the exhibition attractive is evident in the help demanded from artists of the celebrity of Sir John Gilbert and Mr. F. Leighton; if they had sent important works, their aid would have been invaluable; but this, having their own societies to contribute to, could hardly be expected; therefore, it was clearly an error for the British Artists to seek the protection

of the Royal Academy; rather should they have appealed to young and rising talent.

To do this, in the first place, it ought clearly to be understood that pictures would be treated entirely according to merit, and for assurance the contributors should have a voice in the election of the hanging committee, the works of the members to be submitted to this committee equally with those of non-members. In the second place the gallery itself should be rendered pleasant and attractive, which hardly seems possible with the present one. There should be only one line of pictures; more than this has a disagreeable effect, and is irksome to the spectator. If a picture is not worth being fairly placed, it had better not be exhibited. In reply to the objection of want of space, it may be pointed out that as the majority of the works of the English school are small, our galleries should consist of rooms not unnecessarily wide, avoiding the abominations of "screens"; neither is it requisite they be lofty, except one for the larger pictures. If the rooms were made bright with harmonious decoration (which need not be expensive), enlivened with flowers, sculpture, and bronzes, not forgetting comfortable seats, then, with a good show of select pictures, an exhibition might be formed which the public would flock to in crowds, and purchasers would not be wanting. There is no reason why, with several changes of pictures, it should not be kept open all the year round. That our exhibitions will assume this character there is not much doubt; the British Artists, having an organization, if they can command sufficient enterprise, at the same time making some sacrifices, which in the end will prove in every way to be gain, may not only retrieve their position, but enter on a career of assured success and prosperity.

NOTES FROM ROME.

THE results of digging that miserable dirty hole in the Piazza di Pietra, of which I spoke in my last "Notes," have gone so far beyond our expectation, that I beg room for a further account on the subject. The surface of the excavation does not exceed 40 ft. by 12 ft.; but these few handfuls of dirt concealed more works of art than the excavations of the Forum have yielded since 1871. I have already mentioned a pedestal, 2m·07 high, 1m·90 wide, with the life-size figure of a Roman province. It was the eighth discovered since the "Renaissance." Two more were dug up, with the same figure of a province (one of them *bracata*), and both in a wonderful state of preservation. Yesterday afternoon another one appeared in the border of the trench, so that their number actually amounts to eleven. I have to mention also a bas-relief, 2m·07 high, 2m·37 wide, with trophies and military or nautical emblems. Two more were found in the course of the week, ornamented with banners, shields, lances, and cuirasses. The style of sculpture belongs to the period of the Antonines. There is also a fluted column of giallo antico, 0m·86 in diameter, broken in two pieces; another fragment of the entablature of the temple; a piece of inscription to Germanicus; another with the word CAESAR in that funny way of spelling of which Claudius was so proud; part of the walls and portico which enclosed the sacred area of the temple; and many other pieces of less consequence.

Such an archaeological feast, which recalls to our mind the good old times of Cardinal Farnese, when the *chefs-d'œuvre* of sculpture used to be found still standing on their pedestals in the Baths of Caracalla and elsewhere—such a feast, I say, has excited the indignation of the press, because people going to buy sticks of candy or safety matches from the neighbouring shops had to cross the excavation over a plank. Signs of the times!

However, our knowledge of the architecture and ornamentation of that magnificent temple yet immured, and of its surroundings, has greatly improved, thanks to these discoveries. The pedestals with the provinces appear to have been inserted into the basement of the temple, underneath each of the columns of its peristyle. The

large slabs, with trophies in alto-rilievo, represent the lacunaria of the same peristyle. The big cornice is quite different from the actual one modelled in plaster under Innocent XII., and shows the accuracy of Palladio's designs. That the column of giallo antico, 0m·86 in diameter, must be attributed to the portico enclosing the *τέμενος*, is confirmed by the record of another one, exactly alike, found under Urban VIII. at the other end of the Piazza. Its capital, of the Corinthian order, was found 1851, and removed to the Lateran Museum. I wish it were possible to restore all these scattered spoils to their original seat. What a monumental group we would create if the Barberinis would give up their column of giallo and their inscription of Claudius; the Odescalchis, their couple of provinces; the Capitoline Museum, two of the same and a piece of the tympanum; the Lateran, one of the capitals; the Museum at Naples, three provinces and two trophies, and so on.

It seems that the generosity of the *genius loci* of Piazza di Pietra must have excited emulation among the keepers of hidden treasures, a tribe very hard to deal with, and subject to fits of avarice or magnanimity. I had waited patiently three months to find materials. Now, within the last ten days, I have enough to fill a book.

On Friday, the 22nd ult., a workman employed to keep in order the avenues of the Campo Santo, just behind the church of S. Lorenzo fuori le Mura, discovered the arm of a marble statue coming through the surface of the ground. We ran to the spot, and one after the other, in a tolerable state of integrity, we dug up three statues, which must have decorated the well-known villa of the Veranii. One is life size, and represents an Ephebus, who, for the sake of modesty, wears only a tiny little piece of cloth behind the shoulders, and leaves for admiration his beautiful boyish form, improved by practising gymnastics in the palestra. This work of art is highly interesting on account of its being coloured, rosy on the flesh, red (formerly gilt) on the cloth behind. And coloured accordingly was the second statuette of a child striking the attitude of a Discobolus, with much grace and simplicity. The third piece represents another little imp, composed and dignified in his manners, with a dove in one hand and immature fruit in the other, enough to give the little thing the colic. I fancy there must have been a Sunday school somewhere in the neighbourhood, and that these were the prize boys.

Coloured mosaics have, as a rule, been found set in the centre of chiaroscuro pavements, the walls being painted in fresco, or ornamented with painted stuccoes. The excavations of the house of Avidius Quirinus, on the Quirinal, have just shown an exception to the rule. There, at the junction of the Via Mazarino and the Via Nazionale, under a new wing of the Rospigliosi Palace, a mosaic picture was found, set into the wall of a nymphaeum, between two marble fountains. The size of the picture is 2m·12 by 1m·90, and it represents a full-rigged merchant ship coming to its moorings in a magnificent harbour—very likely the Claudian harbour at Ostia. Five sailors appear on board the ship, one manœuvring the rudder, others pulling or coiling ropes or making up sails. Coloured flags float to the wind as a demonstration of joy: *salvus redire*. The jetty is built of large blocks of marble, and rests on piers and open arcades, according to the hydraulic practice followed by the Romans in their harbours along low coasts, to prevent the accumulation of sands within. The lighthouse is square below and circular above. Our best naval authorities, such as Padre Guglielmotti and Colonel Cialdi, declare that the Rospigliosi mosaic is the most important piece of information on the subject of Roman nautical affairs found since the discovery of the famous Torlonia bas-relief at Porto.

I could go on for ever describing the latest discoveries of the Stadium on the Palatine, of the Via Triumphalis, of the Esquiline, of Ostia and Hadrian's Villa. I could mention pieces of equestrian statues of gilt bronze, big statues of painted terra-cotta, new and hitherto unknown kinds of

Etruscan tombs in Rome; but, as I fear that the abundance of the day is a warning against coming droughts, I must lay something aside for my next letter.

On Tuesday, March 26th, we celebrate the inauguration of the excavations in the valley of the Forum, between the temple of Antoninus and Faustina and the Arch of Titus, to the great disappointment of our workmen, who think it fatal to begin any work on such days as Tuesdays and Fridays.

RODOLFO LANCIANI.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT OLYMPIA.

A TELEGRAM of the 21st ult. announced, as you mentioned a fortnight ago, a quite new and important discovery. Before the Exedra of Herodes Atticus has been found a great marble bull, bearing an inscription which declares that the statue was presented by Regilla, the wife of Herodes, to adorn a conduit built by her husband. This confirms a passage in Lucian (*De Morte Peregr.* 19), in which it is said that Herodes constructed a costly conduit for the use of the inhabitants of Olympia and the visitors at the festivals. Now it is clear that the many aqueducts and pipes which run at the north, west, and south of the Heraeum, as well as the fountain on the south side of the Temple, which lies quite close to the western side of the Exedra, all belong to the system of Herodes. Plastic art, too, gains in the bull of Regilla a great marble figure of certain date. The bull is 1·50 metre long. Its head is lowered as if it were going to charge, the same attitude as is portrayed on the coins of several Greek cities, which represent the river of the city by a charging bull (*βούς βοῦριος*). Under his body appeared, connected with him, a cylindrical support, which our friends suppose to be a pipe of the conduit, for they think that the bull served as a fountain. While the conception and outlines of this work of art are exceedingly good, the details are not very carefully or finely elaborated; but the inscription which is engraved on the right side of the body is interesting:—

Ρηγίλλα ἱέρεια Δήμητρος τὸ ὄνομα καὶ τὸ περὶ τὸ ὄνομα τῷ Δαί.

The worship of Demeter Chamyne was very old, and her priestess was held in high honour. She was the only woman who was allowed to see the games; while any other woman who ventured to witness them was hurled down from the cliff.

Generally speaking, this whole quarter has been very much cleared during the past few weeks. On the 12th of March the marble head of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, crowned with laurel, was discovered before the Exedra. The south-eastern corner of the Heraeum, in the neighbourhood of the entrance steps, was in Roman times a favoured spot. There stood a group of honorary statues of Elean officials and their wives (among them the descendant of Phidias, of whom I have before made mention); there, too, stood the female draped figures, which I have said on a previous occasion, were the work of Eros and Aulus Sextus. There were also attached to the pillars of the Temple numerous tablets, with reliefs and inscriptions, as is obvious from the many square flat surfaces where the fluting has been cut away; also between the columns must have stood a perfect archive of inscriptions; while from under the wall which later generations erected from the drums of the columns close along the south side of the Heraeum has been extracted a pleasant portrait head of a lady who, to judge by the dressing of the hair and the arrangement of the ringlets, belonged to the court circle of Augustus. The veil forms a background to the head, like a saint's aureole. If one dives on the south and west sides of the Heraeum into the deeper layers, one reaches a layer of discoveries, where hundreds of quite archaic bronze figures of animals, oxen, cows, horses, stags, hares, and birds, mostly of rough execution, but often fashioned with all the care that distinguishes archaic art, are strewn in the soil. Human figures, also tools, carts, tripods, were found with them, and with the bronze figures were mixed others of baked clay.

Some had votive offerings. But this where in the remains of the Heraeum. Besides beautiful vessels, archaic graffito in the Heraeum. The neighbourhood of the M. the marble once supposed to be a royal family. The marble on a rock, a single statue, of archaic of very a mane tablets, figures. A second carried western statues of the head for its head from the tries to the be Unfortunate were a shape of they v diggers more a bronze become archaic notable which mouth chin a hair; sisting sort of. Along here a was a statue high. hangs a Mosaic tation. Mu winter which struct and a haust the p are e the i and Orest Paus w "but Tello artis Daësi sum hith Imp befo of t tion and run

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Some had served to adorn vessels, but most are votive offerings to the gods of the rich and poor. But this is the case all over the Altis. Everywhere in the deepest strata have been picked up the remains of the once incalculable wealth of bronze. In a small ditch, for instance, were found, besides kettles, tripods, and inscriptions, two beautiful griffin-heads, which once belonged to vessels. The larger of these is a real gem of archaic art, covered over and above with a rich graffiti marking of scales and snake lines. To the Heraeum adjoins on the west the Philippeum, and in the neighbourhood of the latter again new remnants of the Macedonian king's building have been found: the marble pedestals forming together a circle which once supported the chryselephantine statues of the royal family; a female draped figure without a head; the marble statuette of a Hercules reclining drunk on a rock or a wine-skin; a small bronze figure only a single span in height, but most beautifully executed, which represents a richly-clad female figure of archaic style; a couchant lion in calcareous stone of very archaic and remarkable workmanship, with a mane which consists of scales; finally, bronze tablets, with inscriptions, and a mass of votive figures of animals.

A second place where the excavations have been carried on with zeal is the ground before the western front of the Temple of Zeus. Here have been unearthed numbers of fragments of the statues of Alcmena, among them more especially the head of a centaur. This head is remarkable for its dramatic realism. The centaur tears with his teeth the arm of a Lapith, who has clutched from behind the throat of his antagonist, and tries to throttle him. The mouth is distorted, the beard bristles, the hair floats backwards. Unfortunately the long pointed horse's ears which were separately attached are missing; but the shape of them is discernible at the holes where they were inserted. Here, too, the deeper the diggers for treasure penetrate into the soil, the more abundant do the coins and fragments of bronze statues and the tools and inscriptions become. A lovely bronze arm of a child and an archaic head in the same metal are especially notable. In the latter the eyes are only holes, in which jewels were placed. The broad closed mouth displays thick and large lips. Cheeks and chin are covered by an over-hanging beard of fine hair; the hair is arranged in two rows, each consisting of fourteen thick ringlets, which form a sort of semicircular frame to the countenance. Along with this interesting work I may mention here another sculpture of great beauty,—where it was found I do not know,—an archaic draped statuette of Artemis in bronze, ninety centimetres high. She is clad in a long Chiton, over which hangs a Diploidion, the middle fold is adorned with a Meander, as is the case in other early representations of Athene and Artemis.

Much time and labour have been spent this winter in breaking up the Byzantine fortress, which, being two to three metres thick, was constructed from the fragments of ancient sculpture and architecture. Naturally it has proved an inexhaustible repertory of monuments, among which the pedestals of statues bearing inscriptions are especially numerous. From it were derived the inscriptions already mentioned of Xenocles and Polybius; and now that of Telson of Oresthasium in Arcadia has been discovered. Pausanias read it (VI. 10): he says of Telson that he was victorious in the boxing match for boys; "but who was the sculptor of (the statue of) Telson is not stated"; and he is right, for no artist's name is given. The inscription is a distich, and runs thus: "Telson dedicated this here, Daëmon's splendid son, an Arcadian of Oresthasium." Other inscriptions inform us of artists hitherto unknown: thus Sophocles twice (of the Imperial period), Polycleus (second century before Christ), Pyrilampus, probably a descendant of the artist of the same name frequently mentioned by Pausanias; his father was called Agias, and his brother Aristomenes. The last inscription runs: "The City of the Eleans (erected this

statue) to Leocrates on account of his virtue and dexterity. Menandrus - Pyrilampus, the son of Agias of Messana, made it."

On the destruction of the wretched huts which were constructed about the Byzantine eastern wall out of fragments of ancient buildings and statues,—so many still remained,—broken tiles and earth, it became very plain that the Byzantines lived by tilling the soil and cultivating vines, just as the peasantry of Druva and Miraca do at this day. I have already mentioned how in one place the treasure of Byzantine coins belonging to a peasant, heaped up in clay vessels, his cooking apparatus, consisting of kettles, flasks, bronze cans, iron hooks, and his iron instruments for agriculture—hooks, shovels, knives, sickles, and chains—were found. Since then iron ploughshares, sickles, and similar objects have been turned up in these huts, and in the neighbourhood vinepresses are extremely numerous, put together out of ancient inscriptions and marble plates, and scooped out of drums of columns. These vinepresses are spread over the whole of the soil of Olympia, far also in the north-west, near the Prytaneum, Philippeum, and Heraeum, a second large Slav village has come to light. Their graves these Slavs placed directly under the floor of the rooms they inhabited; and they (the graves) were made out of ancient blocks of stone and pottery ware. They contained scarcely ever more than the remains of the corpses, which were always laid with the head towards the west, and were huddled sometimes four together, one on the top of the other, into the narrow caverns. Only in a single instance did a pair of silver-plated pins and brooches lie near the skeleton.

Outside the Altis, at a considerable distance from the Temple of Zeus, and not far from the Alpheus, a ruin of a Roman edifice projects from the surface of the soil. It is probably to be identified with the great guest-house mentioned by Pausanias, and called the Leonideum. To this monument a trench has been dug from the Byzantine eastern wall, the so-called Octagon trench. In it were found the marble pedestal formerly mentioned by me, bearing the fine relief of Hercules and the Nemean lion; great masses of Byzantine huts, with vinepresses and graves, and, in especially large numbers, fragments from the eastern pediment of the Temple of Zeus, among them the head of the kneeling charioteer, and fragments of the Nike of Pæonius. It is astonishing how these fragments have been removed more than one hundred metres from their original position. Across the trench runs the eastern wall of the Altis, and outside this the explorers came on Roman mosaic pavement.

Thus the soil of Olympia is yielding a number of most interesting objects, the existence of which was till now undreamt of by even the boldest imagination. All over Olympia are turning up remains which are full of instruction for the most diverse branches of historical and archaeological science. It is to be hoped that if political complications do not involve Greece in the Eastern War, the plain of the Alpheus will become, in course of time, a museum of art and science which will surpass all other collections in the world in wealth.

A telegram from Olympia, dated the 4th of April, announces that "there have been found the body of the infant Bacchus, who sat on the arm of Hermes; an inscription showing the name of the artist Glaucias, of Ægina; a great griffin-head in bronze, from the Exedra, and several rows of columns in the Prytaneum *in situ*."

JULIUS SCHUBRING.

SALES.

THE last of the collection of pictures belonging to the late Mr. Munro was dispersed by Messrs. Christie, Manson & Woods on Saturday last, when the following prices (in pounds) were realized:—R. P. Bonington, A Normandy Coast Scene, 420; another French Coast Scene, 210; The Fish Market, Boulogne, 3,150; The Grand Canal, Venice, 3,150. W. Collins, R.A., Dominicans Returning to their Monastery, Amalfi, 267. J.

Constable, R.A., Stratford St. Mary, Suffolk, 325; Hampstead Heath, 483; Ploughing, 304. W. Etty, R.A., The Graces, 178; The Good Samaritan, 168; Venus and Adonis, after the Titian in the National Gallery, smaller than the original, 231; Diana and Endymion, 315; Waters of Elle, 73; Head of Mrs. Wethered, 68; Aurora and Zephyr, circle, 483. H. Fuseli, R.A., a large picture, Sin and Death, engraved, 10. W. Hogarth, The Harlot's Progress, the quarrel with her new lover, 546; The Scene in Bridewell, companion picture, woman at the washing blocks, with the taskmaster, 315. P. F. Poole, R.A., The Visitation and Surrender of Syon Nunnery, Isleworth, to Commissioners of Henry the Eighth, 535. Sir Joshua Reynolds, Portrait of Kitty Fisher, 735; Contemplation, 3,150. R. Smirke, R.A., Seven Ages of Man, 283. T. Stothard, R.A., Euphrosyne, 99. David Wilkie, R.A., Gentle Shepherd, 157. R. Wilson R.A., Italian River Scene, 273; Italian Lake Scene, 294; Syon House and Thames from Kew, 283. J. M. W. Turner, R.A., Ancient Italy, 5,460; Modern Italy, 5,250; Rome, from the Mount Aventine, 6,142; Modern Rome—Campo Vaccino, 4,672; St. Mark's Place, Venice, by Moonlight, with Juliet after the Masquerade, 5,460; Van Tromp's Shallop at the Entrance to the Texel, 5,260; Avalanche in the Valley of Aosta, Savoy, 955; The Departure of Adonis for the Chase, 1,942; and Kilgarran Castle, 3,570. Drawings: J. M. W. Turner, R.A., The Sea, the Sea! engraved by Wilman for 'The Keepsake,' 1837, 210; The Simplon, vignette, Sir W. Scott's prose works, 215; The Bellerophon, vignette for the same, 187; Hôtel de Ville, Paris, vignette for the same, 147; Hôtel de Ville, Brussels, vignette for the same, 136; Stirling, engraved for the same, 357; Edinburgh, for Sir W. Scott's poetical works, 430; Inverness, Scott's works, 315; Glencoe, Scott's works, 336; Loch Katrine, Scott's works, 336; Moonlight on the Nile, vignette, for Moore's 'Epicurean,' 262; Kenilworth, Moonlight, 157; Valley of the Var signed, and dated 1813, 420; The Walls of Rome and Tomb of Caius Sextus, engraved in Finden's illustrations of Lord Byron's works, 215; Rhodes, engraved by Finden in Byron's works, 262; Acropolis of Athens, engraved by Finden, 162; Lichfield, the Cathedral and River, done for the England and Wales series, but never engraved, 420; Oxford, engraved by Goodall, 525; River in Switzerland, 120; The Baths of Peffers, Ragatz, Splügen Pass, 1,050; The Lake of Lucerne, 619; Kussnacht, Lake of Lucerne, 1,018; Zürich, 1,260. Engraved drawings in Turner's 'England and Wales': Ashby-de-la-Zouche, 525; Chain Bridge over the Tees, 1,491; Blenheim, view of the Palace and Park, with sportsmen and dogs and horses, 714; Knaresborough, 1,218; Lowestoft, 777; Malmesbury Abbey, 735; Pembroke Castle, 630; Ulleswater, 682. Total, 73,520.

The collection of Rembrandt etchings formed by the late Mr. H. Danby Seymour, consisting of nearly 300, including sixteen drawings, was sold by Messrs. Christie, Manson & Woods on April 4th: Old Haaring, 325*l.* 10*s.*; The Three Trees, 130*l.*; The Burgomaster Six, on India paper, 220*l.* 10*s.*; The Triumph of Mordecai, 17*l.*; Jesus found by His Parents, 19*l.* 19*s.*; Christ Preaching, 13*l.* 13*s.*; Our Lord before Pilate (third state), 42*l.*; Another (sixth state), 17*l.* 17*s.*; Our Lord Crucified between Two Thieves, 14*l.* 10*s.*; The Descent, a night piece, 22*l.*; Christ Entombed, 18*l.*; St. Jerome sitting before a Tree (first state), on India paper, 140*l.*; St. Jerome (unfinished), 30*l.*; St. Francis Praying (second state), 31*l.* 10*s.*; The Shell (second state), 50*l.* 8*s.*; A Peasant carrying Milk-pails, 70*l.*; The Canal, landscape of irregular form, 26*l.*; Landscape with a Vista (third state), 34*l.*; ditto, with a ruined Tower and clear Foreground (third state), and the reverse, 36*l.*; an Arched Landscape, with Flock of Sheep (third state), 50*l.*; a large Landscape, with a Cottage and a Dutch Hay-barn, 28*l.*; an Arched Landscape, with an Obelisk, 100*l.*; The Goldweaver's Field, 49*l.* 7*s.*; Ephraim Bonus (second state), 101*l.*; John Cornelius Sylvius, 130*l.*; Attenbogaert, called

the Goldweiger (first state), the face drawn, 72*l.*; Portrait of Coppenol, large plate (third state), 44*l.* Total, 2,525*l.*

Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge sold last week the duplicate etchings of Rembrandt from the Cambridge University collections. The following are the prices realized by some of the more interesting lots:—The Angel appearing to the Shepherds (fourth state), 14*l.*; The Flight into Egypt, in the style of Elsheimer (third state), 12*l.* 12*s.*; Jesus found by His Parents in their Journey to Jerusalem, 16*l.* 10*s.*; Another impression of the same, 20*l.* 10*s.*; Christ Preaching, or "The little La Tombe," 14*l.*; Our Lord Crucified between the two Thieves (fourth state), 24*l.*; St. Jerome sitting before the Trunk of an old Tree (second state), 20*l.*; St. Jerome (second state), 29*l.* 10*s.*; An Allegorical Piece, probably the Demolition of the Statue of the Duke of Alva, 112*l.*; The Spanish Gipsy, 56*l.*; Another impression of the same, 56*l.*; Beggars at the Door of a House, 24*l.* 10*s.*; The Friar in the Corn-field, 17*l.* 17*s.*; A Woman sitting before a Dutch Stove (third state), 28*l.*; A Woman preparing to Dress after Bathing (second state), 15*l.*; Antiope and Jupiter as a Satyr (first state), 25*l.*; A Landscape, with a House and a large Tree by it, 45*l.*; View of Omval, near Amsterdam, 41*l.*; View of Amsterdam, 13*l.*; The Sportsman, 36*l.*; The Three Trees, 60*l.*; A Peasant carrying Milk-pails (second state), 60*l.*; The Canal, 24*l.* 10*s.*; A Landscape, with a Vista (third state), 22*l.*; An Arched Landscape, with a Flock of Sheep (third state), 23*l.*; A large Landscape, with a Cottage and a Dutch Hay-barn, 26*l.*; A Cottage, with White Pales (third state), 16*l.*; The Goldweiger's Field, 56*l.*; Clement de Jonge (first state), 33*l.*; Ephraim Bonus (second state), 40*l.*; The great Jewish Bride (fourth state), 13*l.* 10*s.*; A Cope and Paling, with Studies of two Heads, and a Horse seen from behind, 305*l.*; and Sketch of a Tree and other subjects, 20*l.* The sale realized 2,259*l.* 13*s.*

The following prices, in francs, were realized by some pictures in a collection sold the other day at the Hôtel Drouot:—Corot, Pêcheur Napolitain, 3,850. Daubigny, Bords de Rivière, Temps Sombre, date of 1814, 2,200. Diaz, La Châtelaine, 5,150; Rayon de Soleil sous Bois, 3,105; Sentier au Milieu d'une Clairière, 3,400; Intérieur de Forêt, 4,300. Jules Dupré, Paysage (Soleil Couchant), 3,000. Troupeau de Vaches à l'Abreuvoir, 2,500; Vaches dans un Pâturage, 4,050. Philippe Rousseau, Bassin sur une Terrasse, 4,650. Fromentin, Arabes s'exerçant au Tir, 2,550. Robert Fleury, Le Recours en Grâce, 1,200. Total of the sale, 74,063 francs.

First Art Gossip.

THE drawing of the 'Pass of the Splügen' in the Novar Sale, has, we understand, been bought, through the agency of Mr. Agnew, by some friends of Mr. Ruskin's, who wish to present it to him on his recovery. Mr. Ruskin speaks of this drawing in his notes on his own collection of Turners now in Bond Street as one which only unlucky chance prevented him from buying on two previous occasions. This sale, therefore, afforded an opportunity they were glad to seize of marking their gratitude and affection. There was no time for concerted action, but we have no doubt that many besides those to whom the idea first occurred would like to share in the pleasure of this gift. Any such persons are requested to address themselves to one of the following gentlemen: the Right Hon. W. Cowper Temple, 15, Stanhope Street, Mayfair; Mr. John Simon, 40, Kensington Square; Mr. Alfred W. Hunt, Tor Villa, Campden Hill.

MR. J. C. HOOK, R.A., sends two pictures to the Royal Academy Exhibition. The subjects of both are Italian; one, representing an incident of the vintage, is suggested by the coral fishery and has for background the Bay of Amalfi.

MR. G. F. WATTS, R.A., will send to the Grosvenor Gallery Exhibition his large painting of

'Death and Sleep,' which was described some time ago in the *Athenæum*.

MR. H. S. MARKS, A.R.A., will only be represented in this year's Royal Academy by one picture. Its subject is 'Convocation,' a theme hardly suggestive of humorous treatment. But the public see.

MRS. ALLINGHAM, whose recovery is now complete, will exhibit several drawings at the gallery of the Society of Painters in Water Colours; the title of the principal one is 'London Flowers,' a flower-girl with her basket, and two children.

MR. RUSKIN is, we are glad to say, much better. He is able to walk out and to read aloud.

THE Berlin National Gallery has recently acquired the well-known portrait of a child from the Palazzo Strozzi, and also from the same source a portrait by Bronzino, and another of Giuliano de' Medici by Sandro Botticelli; the Museum of Sculpture of the same city has also made some valuable acquisitions consisting of marble busts by Mino da Fiesole and Desiderio. A bronze statue, half life-size, of the (aged) John the Baptist by Donatello; these also were from the Strozzi collection. The other additions are a youthful terra-cotta bust by Francia, a marble bust in the manner of A. Rossellino, and a terra-cotta relief of a Madonna in the style of the quattro cento.

ADMIRERS of Donatello will be glad to hear that photographs from the casts in the Berlin Museum of his bronzes in the Santo at Padua will shortly be published. They consist of the four reliefs with representations of the miracles of St. Anthony, the four reliefs of the symbols of the apostles, the great relief of the entombment, the twelve reliefs of angels singing and playing music, two representations of the Pietas, the great crucifix and two saints (which at present, in their positions in the church at the top of the high altar, can scarcely be seen), and the equestrian statue of Gattamelata, altogether some eighteen sheets. There will also be a short text as introduction to the work from the pen of the distinguished Assistant-Director, Dr. W. Bode.

MR. MURRAY will publish this spring the late Sir G. G. Scott's Lectures at the Royal Academy on the Rise and Development of Mediæval Architecture, with illustrations from the author's drawings.

THE Corporation of Liverpool have purchased from their late autumn exhibition two pictures which will be added to the Walker Art Gallery, viz., an oil painting, by Mr. Hemy, entitled 'A Nautical Argument,' and a drawing by Mr. Whaite, 'The Castle Rock, Cumberland.' Mr. Alderman Bennett presented to the gallery Mr. Armitage's picture of 'Self Emancipation,' and Mr. Alderman Hall, 'The Best of Husbands,' by Mr. Stocks. The Art Committee publish their report, in which they state that upwards of 72,000 persons visited the gallery by payment, and 12,000 pupils of schools were admitted gratuitously. Would it not be desirable to give on some days gratuitous admission to adults as well as pupils of schools? Three hundred and one works were sold during the Exhibition.

THE managing director of the Fine Art Society writes:—"My attention has been called, on my return from abroad, to a letter, respecting the engravings of Miss Thompson's pictures in the *Athenæum* of the 23rd ult. Had your anonymous correspondent taken the trouble to inquire of our agent, who is always with the pictures, he would have learned that the following artist's proofs have been declared: 'Eoll Call' and 'Quatre Bras,' 500; 'Balaclava' and 'Inkerman,' 525. If additional evidence be required as to there being no concealment on our part, I may mention that 100,000 pamphlets were gratuitously distributed to those who visited our galleries in 1876-7. In these, under the heading 'Terms of Publication,' was stated:—"By a declaration made to the Printers' Association the number of artist's proofs is limited to 500, which number can in no case be exceeded." Was your correspondent, as he seeks

to imply by his *nom de plume*, a veritable collector, he would know that to perpetrate the fraud which by implication he imputes to the Fine Art Society of 'rubbing off,' whatever that may mean, whenever required, a few score of artist's proofs would necessitate the adhesion of the artist and the engraver (both of whom sign the impression), the printer, the Secretary of the Printers' Association (who has to stamp them), and ourselves."

THE seven pre-Raphaelite brethren will be edified by knowledge of the fact that a copy of their periodical, *The Germ*, which was published in four shilling numbers and died for lack of buyers, was sold the other day at Mr. E. B. Jupp's sale of books on Art for 3*l.* 12*s.* A fine and finely bound copy of that extremely rare little volume, 'The Looking Glass,' a genuine biography of Mulready, written by Godwin, and published by him in 1806 for the encouragement of good little boys, realized at the same sale but 3*l.*, while two pocket-books of T. Bewick's, and a memorandum book of J. Bewick's, fetched 17*s.* only.

MR. W. BARCLAY SQUIRE informs us "that the method of lecturing to a class before the statues has been several times adopted by Prof. Sidney Colvin as far as the limited number of casts in the Fitzwilliam Museum will allow. Only last term Prof. Colvin postponed the termination of a course of lectures he was delivering on the discoveries at Olympia because the necessary casts had not arrived from Berlin."

WE do not know whether or not we are to be favoured with the first part of the new 'Antiquités du Nord Finno-Ougrien,' par J. R. Aspelin (Helsingfors, Edland), but of the second part, which is before us, we may say that it is exceptionally rich in woodcuts of objects belonging to the so-called "Iron Age," ornaments, weapons, small tools, and domestic implements, carved in stone, moulded or chiselled in bronze, or engraved in either material by the Finnish tribes before the dawn of history in the north of Russia. These are the 'Antiquités Permiennes' of the archaeologists. The text is in Russian, and in parallel columns, is a French translation by M. Biaudet. One of the most interesting facts which catches our eyes in running over the pages is that weapons of iron, moulded in types proper to bronze, have been found in the sandy plains of Minussinsk, indicating that the civilization of the Iron Age was not, as seems to have been common, violently introduced in that country. With a general resemblance to objects of similar natures, origins, and materials, the relics represented in this book have characteristics of their own, and they comprise plaques engraved with human and other forms, sculptured birds, numerous bears, a horse, a sturgeon (?), and such like. When the book is before us as a whole we may examine it at length; at present, without even the names of the objects engraved, it is out of the question to say more than we have said.

MISS KATE THOMPSON'S Handbook to the Public Picture Galleries of Europe, published last summer by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., is about to enter upon a second edition. This is no mere reprint, but has been enlarged, thoroughly revised, in great part rewritten, and brought up to date by a fresh visit to all the principal galleries of Europe.

MUSIC

MADAME JENNY VIARD-LOUIS'S THIRD GRAND ORCHESTRAL AND VOCAL CONCERT, St. James's Hall, TUESDAY, April 30, at Three o'clock. The orchestra will comprise ninety eminent performers. Conductor, Mr. H. Weist Hill. Tickets: Sofa and Balcony stalls, 10*s.* 6*d.*; Stalls and Balcony, 5*s.*; Area, 2*s.* 6*d.*; Admission, 1*s.* Tickets may be obtained of Mr. Mitchell, 24, Old Bond Street; Messrs. Chappell & Co. 50, New Bond Street; Messrs. J. B. Cramer & Co. 201, Regent Street; Messrs. Stanley Lucas, Weber & Co. 84, New Bond Street; Mr. Alfred Hays, 4, Royal Exchange Buildings; Messrs. Keith, Frowse & Co. 45, Cheapside; or of the usual Agents; and at Austin's Ticket-Office, St. James's Hall, 28, Piccadilly.

THE ITALIAN OPERA-HOUSES.

THE subscribers to the Covent Garden opera-house have had but Lenten entertainment as

regards the *prime donne* who have been heard in Signor Verdi's 'Ballo in Maschera,' Auber's 'Fra Diavolo,' and M. Gounod's 'Faust.' The east winds, it seems, have caused extinction of voice in artists who might have been more endurable than those who have appeared; but, unless some of the newcomers whose names figure in the prospectus should prove to be prizes, the attractions of the season will turn on the advent of Madame Adelina Patti, and, in a secondary degree, on that of Mdle. Albani, who leaves Paris next week. The return of Mdle. Thalberg is now promised for this evening (Saturday), not as Zerlina in 'Fra Diavolo,' but as Zerlina in 'Don Giovanni,' in the cast of which a new Donna Anna is announced in Mdle. de Riti. Whether another *débütante*, Mdle. Sarda, sang in the 'Sonnambula' on Thursday night will be made known in next week's issue.

The opening of Her Majesty's Theatre is still fixed for next Saturday with Meyerbeer's 'Dinorah,' that is, wind and weather permitting. The chief characters to be sustained by Mdle. Marimon, Mdle. de Belocca, Signori Bettini and Rota. In the *Athenæum* of the 6th reference was made to the English artists whose names are mentioned in Mr. Mapleson's prospectus, and owing to the name of "Mr. Carl Rosa" having slipped in instead of the word "Anglo," applicable to the series of representations at Her Majesty's Theatre following Italian opera at reduced prices, Mrs. Crosmont, Mr. Thomas, and Signor Talbo were erroneously included in the Adelphi company, whereas they appeared at the Haymarket establishment. Owing to our omission of the name of Sir Michael Costa the remarks upon hurried performances have been applied to the Impresario, who selects the works to be performed and the casts thereof, but the responsibility of the *ensembles* rests solely on the musical director and conductor, who is bound to secure proper preparation before any opera is submitted for public approval.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

THE instrumentalists and choralsists at the Exeter Hall Oratorio Concerts are, of course, familiar with Haydn's 'Creation,' a work which maintains permanent popularity not so much, perhaps, from the attraction of the choral numbers as because of the opportunities which are afforded to a soprano, a tenor, and a bass to distinguish themselves in the bright, melodious, and descriptive solos abounding in the score. The representatives of the respective parts on the 5th inst. were Madame Blanche Cole, Mr. Lloyd, and Herr Henschel. The lady ought to be heard more frequently in the singing of sacred music, for she has a sympathetic voice and a sound style. Mr. Lloyd has taken the lead now as the tenor *par excellence* for oratorios. He was encored in the air, "In native worth." The fine organ and artistic method of Herr Henschel are marred by a pronunciation of the English words which is more than disagreeable, as it borders at times on burlesque. He must try to remedy the defects of his foreign accent, if he is to hold the position of *primus basso*. It is true that neither Staudigl nor Formes (both Germans), nor even Signor Beletti, the Italian, made their hearers forget altogether that they were foreigners; but Herr Henschel's Cologne enunciation is most objectionable, and it is impossible for any singer to be complete master of his musical text unless he is able to pronounce with accuracy, an accomplishment which naturally entails increase of power to do justice to the composer's settings. Sir Michael Costa's colouring of Haydn's exquisite orchestral accompaniments shows how he poetically appreciates the picturesque instrumentation of the creator of the symphony, who was also the originator of a school of chamber composition the melodious type of which has never been surpassed.

Last night (April 12th) the annual Lenten performance of Handel's 'Messiah' by the Sacred Harmonic Society was announced to be given, under Sir Michael Costa's direction, with Madame Lemmens, Madame Patey, Mr. Lloyd, and Mr.

Thurley Beale, solo singers, and Mr. Willing, organist.

There will be a cessation of the Society's concerts until the 24th of May, when the only oratorio composed by Rossini, 'Mosè in Egitto,' and produced at the San Carlo, in Naples, during the Lent of 1818, when the auditors were dressed in black, will be executed in English, for the first time in this country, with Herr Henschel to sing the music of Moses; Mr. Santley, Pharaoh; Mr. Lloyd, Osiride; Mr. Cummings, the Priest; and Madame Lemmens, Miss Anna Williams, and Miss J. Elton in the three ladies' parts. The rehearsals for this great work take place every week in Exeter Hall. Sir Michael Costa has adapted the Rossinian score to the English words by Mr. Matthison.

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERTS.

THE scheme of the twentieth Saturday concert of the 6th inst. at the Sydenham Palace, under the direction of Mr. Manns, comprised the immortal c minor Overture, No. 5, by Beethoven, but, instead of its being in its proper place as the *pièce de résistance* of the musical menu, it was executed for the playing out of the audience. This exceptional arrangement of the programme was not compensated for by the performance, for the second time at the Palace, of the 'Elegiac' Overture, in memory of Heinrich von Kleist, a composition first introduced in this country on March the 8th last year, when Herr Joachim received at Cambridge the degree of Doctor of Music. Whatever sympathy may exist in Germany for the poet, Von Kleist, who committed suicide in 1811, his name is so little known in England that any elegy, orchestral or vocal, can only be acceptable and appreciated here as abstract music, and, truth to state, Herr Joachim has failed to impress on English listeners any amount of feeling for the bard whose death he deploras. Technically the Overture is, of course, correct enough, but sentimentally it fails to interest, the themes being dry and dull. Herr Joachim played his Hungarian Concerto in D minor, Op. 11, at the end of which he was enthusiastically recalled; but his surpassing skill and acute sensibility were most prominent in the *adagio* from Viotti's twenty-second Concerto for Violin and Orchestra. Madame Joachim was labouring under a cold, so that her singing of her husband's *scena* for Marfa, from Schiller's 'Demetrius,' for contralto and orchestra, given for the first time in this country, of the *scena* from Gluck's 'Alceste,' and of *Lieder* by Schubert and Mendelssohn, was heard under disadvantageous circumstances.

THE BACH CHOIR.

THE third season of the amateur musical society was commenced in St. James's Hall last Saturday evening (April 6th). Although called the Bach Choir, the Society very properly does not lend itself to idol worship, but includes in its practices and in its public performances choral works of various schools, not forgetting the English one. Aided by members of the choirs of the Chapel Royal and of St. Paul's Cathedral, with a professional orchestra and leading solo singers of note, the lady and gentlemen amateurs, under the pilotage of Herr Otto Goldschmidt, have won distinction by a very able execution of the Mass, in B minor, by Bach—a work which there is every reason to believe has been supplemented by additional vocal and orchestral adjuncts. Lord Coleridge is the President of the institution, which it is hoped may in time occupy a position in the musical world left vacant by the extinction of the Ancient Concerts. Amongst the members of the Committee are Lord Montague, Rev. W. H. Milman, Messrs. W. H. Gladstone, M.P., Lionel Benson, C. J. Freaque, G. Grove, D. Jones, A. K. Hichens, G. E. Maude, K. J. Pye, J. E. Streer, with Mr. A. D. Coleridge, Hon. Sec., and Mr. E. Wingfield, Hon. Treasurer. The *chef d'attaque* of the band is Herr L. Straus, and Mr. T. Pettit is the organist. The first part of the programme was confined to the Christmas oratorio composed

by J. S. Bach in 1734, whose title was 'Oratorium Tempore Nativitatis Christi,' but which the Germans now entitle 'Weihnachts Oratorium.' The English text by the Rev. Mr. Troutbeck was first used by the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society, under Mr. Barnby's direction, but the Bach Choir have not presented the composition in its entirety. Of the six divisions, only three of them were given on the 6th, namely, Parts 1, 2, and 3, being the preliminary days of the Christmas festival, Parts 4, 5, and 6 having reference to New Year's Day, the festival of the Circumcision, the Sunday after New Year's Day, and the festival of the Epiphany. Bach has followed his usual practice of turning to account works in his portfolio intended for other purposes and interpolating them in the Christmas oratorio. As in the Passion Music, the meagreness of the original score and the extinction of instruments employed in Bach's time have necessitated additional and new accompaniments; but a kindred master-mind alone can be permitted to interfere with Bach; and, as there has been only one Mozart to score the 'Messiah,' so has there not been found as yet any musician of equal calibre to instrument Bach's imaginings. The general tendency of the conductor was to drag the time: there is no occasion that the Choroales should be drawn as if a parochial choir were singing. The best display of the choralsists was by the sopranos in the number "For us to earth He cometh," with the recitative of the bass. Some more brightness in the choral colouring was also wanting. Of the soloists, Madame Patey carried off the honours in the three airs, "See now the Bridegroom," "Sleep, my beloved," and, above all, in the lovely number, with violin *obligato* (Herr Straus), "Keep, O my spirit." Finely as Herr Henschel sang, his defective pronunciation stands in his way. To Mr. Shakespeare fell recitatives which, although coming under the denomination of ungrateful, were at all events artistically declaimed, but, in the air "Haste, ye shepherds," with flute *obligato* (Mr. Svendsen), he was especially successful. What little Miss M. Davies had to do in the soprano part was well done. Mr. Harper had the trumpet *obligato* in the air for the bass, "Almighty Lord." Some *pianos* and *pianissimos* in a future interpretation will be acceptable, but, on the whole, it was evident that Herr Goldschmidt had taken pains to drill his choir. The 'Neujahrslied,' a setting by Schumann, Op. 144, of Rückert's words to inaugurate the advent of a New Year, opened the second part of the scheme. The solos are for a baritone-bass, with a duet for soprano and contralto. In the concluding chorale of thanksgiving, the composer has used the Psalm, 'Nun danket alle Gott,' which Mendelssohn did in the 'Lobgesang'; but the last-mentioned work is immeasurably superior to the production of praise by Schumann, who was confined to one day in his music, whereas Mendelssohn in thundering tones called upon all that "had life and breath to praise the Lord." The anthem, "O Lord, Thou art my God," in eight parts, with solos and organ, by the late Dr. T. T. Wesley, of the Gloucester Cathedral, was a worthy specimen of the English school of anthem writers. A sextet sung by Miss M. Davies, Madame Patey, Messrs. Shakespeare, Frost, Beckett, and Kempton, is well voiced. The beautiful setting by Mendelssohn of the 114th Psalm, "When Israel out of Egypt came," Op. 51, for eight part chorus and orchestra, terminated an interesting evening highly creditable to the advanced amateur ability of this country in part singing. At the second concert, on the 29th inst., works by Bach ('Magnificat'), H. Purcell, Palestrina, Wilbye, Mendelssohn, and Herr Brahms ('Schicksalslied') will be performed.

CLASSICAL CHAMBER MUSIC.

THE two final Popular Concerts for this season will take place in St. James's Hall, the first this afternoon (April 13th), and the last next Monday evening. Herr Ignaz Brüll was the pianist on the 6th inst., and Herr Barth on the 8th inst., the latter introducing for the first time Chopin's Sonata in B minor, Op. 51; Mr. Barton McGuckin

was the vocalist, *vice* Mr. Sims Reeves. At the extra concert on the 10th inst. there was the annual performance of two of Beethoven's posthumous Quartets, Op. 130, in A minor, and Op. 131, in B flat, the executants being MM. Joachim, Ries, Straus, and Piatti; Fräulein Mehlig played the Sonata in D minor, Op. 31, No. 2, and Madame Joachim sang the songs by Beethoven, 'Mignon,' 'The Last Rose of Summer,' 'Come, draw we round a cheerful ring,' and 'Faithful Johnnie.' The second of the Langham Hall Concertina Concerts, under the direction of Dr. Bernhardt, took place on the 8th inst. Miss Richards, a classical and clever pianist, had an evening concert on the 9th inst. in St. James's Hall, aided by MM. Ludwig, Van Praag, Zerbini, and Daubert, with Miss H. Armin and Mr. B. McGuckin, vocalists, and Messrs. Ganz and Zerbini, conductors. Mr. Ernest Durham, the pianist, had an evening concert, on the 10th inst., in the Steinway Hall. Mr. J. S. Shedlock, the pianist, had a Beethoven night on the 10th inst., at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater, with Miss Julia Wigan and Mlle. Liebich, Mr. Ashley, singers, and MM. Wiener and Lütgen, instrumentalists. Messrs. Ludwig and H. Daubert's Third Chamber Concert in the Royal Academy of Music room was on the 11th inst., aided by Mr. H. Coenen, pianist, MM. Van Praag and Zerbini, and Miss M. Davies, vocalist. Herr Boscovitz had his third Pianoforte Recital in the Steinway Hall, on the 11th inst., at which was given a work called 'The King's Hunting Jigg,' by Dr. John Bull, Professor of Music at Gresham College in Queen Elizabeth's reign, who composed the tune of our National Anthem. On the 12th inst. Fräulein Therese Hennes gave a Pianoforte Recital in the same room. Fräulein Mehlig, the pianist, and Señor Sarasate, the violinist, were allied in a Pianoforte and Violin Recital in St. James's Hall last Thursday afternoon.

Musical Gossip.

THERE will be the customary monster concerts at the Crystal and Alexandra Palaces on Good Friday and Easter Monday, at which, in addition to the ordinary orchestras, there will be military bands, and the services of our leading solo singers will be secured.

OPERATIC performances are continued periodically at the Crystal Palace. On the 10th the Strand Opera Comique company, under the direction of Mr. R. Temple, appeared in the operetta by Messrs. Albany and A. Cellier, 'The Spectre Knight,' and in the 'Cox and Box' of Messrs. Burnand and A. Sullivan; on the 16th the English version of Cimarosa's 'Matrimonio Segreto' will be played, with Mesdames Rose Hersee, Barth, and Palmer, Messrs. B. Lane, G. Fox, and R. Temple; and, on the 18th, Donizetti's 'Don Pasquale,' with Madame Rose Hersee, Messrs. B. Lane, L. James, Clifton, and R. Temple.

SOME curiosity has been manifested in musical circles as to the singing of a young and new tenor named Mr. John Child, who gave a concert on Wednesday night in the lesser Exeter Hall, with the co-operation of the Misses Banks, J. Pratt, and M. Williams, Messrs. Cummings, W. Clifford, Winn, and Lawler, with Mr. W. H. Thomas pianist, and Messrs. F. Lewis and E. Lott accompanists. The new-comer has a very fine voice, and, as he is going to Italy to study, it is needless to dwell on defects of style which ought to have kept him at his practice of the scale, instead of appearing prematurely before the public. The secular songs were better adapted to him than the sacred airs of Mendelssohn and Handel which he selected. He met with a most rapturous reception, but it is to be hoped that, possessing the organ with which he is gifted, he may return here to be included in the first rank of our artists.

MR. JOHN BOOSEY terminated his twelfth season of the London Ballad Concerts on the 10th inst.; the artists were Mesdames Lemmens and A. Sterling, the Misses M. Davies and Orridge,

Messrs. Sims Reeves, Lloyd, Maybrick, Santley, the part singers of Mr. Walker's London Vocal Union, Madame Arabella Goddard, pianist, and Mr. S. Naylor, accompanist.

THE Albert Hall Choral Society, under the direction of Mr. Barnby, will perform the 'Messiah' on Good Friday, for which the announced artists are Mesdames Lemmens and A. Sterling, Mr. Sims Reeves, who is also promised for the Crystal Palace on the 19th inst., Mr. B. Lane, and Signor Foli.

A TONIC SOL-FA gathering took place in Exeter Hall last Tuesday evening, under the presidency of Mr. John Curwen, in aid of the funds to build the proposed College for the professors and students of that singing system. Messrs. Proudman, M'Naught, and Venables conducted in turn the united choirs of the South London Choral Association, of the Bow and Bromley Institute, and of the Tonic Sol-FA Choral Association.

DRAMA

Dramatic Gossip.

A BURLESQUE, by Mr. Byron, entitled 'Il Sonnambulo and the Lively Little Alessio,' has been produced at the Gaiety Theatre. It is not more mirthful in conception or entertaining in treatment than previous pieces of its class, and has no claim to be seen beyond that won for it by the vivacity of actors like Misses Amalia and Farren, Mr. Terry, and Mr. Royce. The opera of 'La Sonnambula' may now arrogate to itself the doubtful honour of having afforded Mr. Byron the subject of two different burlesques. Nothing could be warmer than the reception awarded the piece by that eminently aristocratic public which is now the chief, and, indeed, the only constant, patron of burlesque.

'EAST LYNNE' has been produced at the Duke's Theatre, with Miss Louise Moodie as the heroine and Mr. Lin Rayne as Francis Levison. Miss Moodie displays much intelligence and power. This theatre will shortly pass into the hands of Mr. Currans, who has been acting manager of various London theatres, and who will now officiate as director of a limited liability company. The first novelty under his management will consist of a mythological play by a new author.

'OTHELLO' has been produced at the St. James's Theatre, with Mr. Forrester as Othello, Mr. Titheradge as Iago, Mr. Edgar as Cassio, Miss Emerson as Desdemona, and Mrs. Bernard Beere as Emilia. There was little in the performance to merit criticism.

'LES FILLES DU PERE MARTEAU,' a four-act comedy of the late Edouard Plouvier, has been produced at the Troisième Théâtre Français. Its principal character is a match-making lady, whose attempts to secure the happiness of her friends bring dishonour and death into uncomfortably close proximity to them.

THERE is an almost unanimous consent amongst the Berlin critics that the recent attempt of Berthold Auerbach to snatch dramatic honours in his old age is far from successful. Their criticisms, in most instances, are tempered by a reverence which is almost pious, although a few of the regular theatrical critics speak of him as if he were a pedant who had thrust himself into a close guild which had no wish for his company. It appears that Auerbach's 'Das erlösende Wort,' a comedy in one act, which is now being played at the Königliche Schauspielhaus, is not likely to obtain a long run. Its dialogue, as Fritz Mauthner describes it, 'sparkles with sayings of his peculiar Spinozistic wisdom translated into the language of the age of railways.'

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. W.—W. B. S.—H. T.—J. B.—resolved.
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No notice can be taken of anonymous communications.

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